

Hafa Adai!

Hart prepares for leadership transition at NMC.

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 233

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2015

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75¢

BSI casino smoke scuffle comes down to what 'enclosed' means

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A group of House minority lawmakers has written to public health officials to complain about the alleged violation of the anti-smoking law by Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s temporary casino in T Galleria, which they've described as an "unenclosed smoking facility that exudes toxic second-hand smoke and must be dealt with immediately."

» **Best Sunshine says no violation exists**

In turn, on the same day last Thursday, Saipan casino regulators urged casino executives for a prompt resolution to the matter to comply with public law.

In a response to casino regulators, Best Sunshine lawyer Viola Alepuyo argued yesterday that no law currently exists to ban smoking in casinos. Rather, Alepuyo

See BSI on Page 4

NMHC survey: Most don't know about fair housing

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A survey made by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and Western Economic Services showed a substantial lack of knowledge in the CNMI of the fair housing law.

In a presentation, WES director of research and planning Robert Gaudin said the Analysis of Impediments survey highlighted that lack.

"The fundamental issue we discovered with the survey is the lack of understanding of fair housing, its purpose, its role, and whether they've been discriminated," Gaudin said.

See SURVEY on Page 4



THANKSGIVING TREAT

Fiesta Resort and Spa general manager Abner Acosta, leftmost, is joined by other hotel managers to serve the *man'amko* yesterday during their 7th annual Thanksgiving Lunch, which the hotel provides for free to the island's elderly every Thanksgiving week.

DENNIS B. CHAN

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INSIDE



LOCAL

The Salvation Army hosts an appreciation dinner for its volunteers.

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LOCAL

Guam is quietly slated to become a massive new U.S. military base.

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LIFE & STYLE

One Direction wins the top award at Sunday's American Music Awards.

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Local

CUC scrambles to renew permits of 20 foreign workers

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Some foreign workers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may have their CW work permits not renewed in time for their expiration on Dec. 31, 2015.

In a special meeting yesterday, board members, CUC managers, and supervisors as well as its Human Resource department discussed the renewal process of the 20 workers whose permits will end this year.

It was learned that the job vacancy announcements for the positions were published just last Friday.

"We're used to the very last

minute. We announced a week ago [and] we have another week and a half before we can process," director Joe Torres said.

Power generation manager Richard Cano said he is worried that some of his workers will not be renewed on time, which would require those workers to stop working.

"We've been asking them, 'When are you going to renew our guys who are expiring?'" Cano said. "That's what I'm worried about. I've been telling them that we need to renew them as soon as possible because about 20 of them will be expiring. If we lose these guys, then we are in trouble."

Cano said they experienced

the same problem last year. "Some of my employees, during the expiration, they were not working. Their renewal was delayed so they stopped working."

Asked about the timeline of the renewal, HR senior technician Frank Matsunaga said they are looking at mid-January for the whole process.

Torres suggested the possibility of a waiver. "I've seen companies that have been waived. We should get to legal, and let's go up to Labor Department and ask for that waiver so that we can expedite the process and turn it in," he said.

CUC chief legal counsel James Sirok pointed out a policy that the board adopted last year

to reduce the number of CUC's foreign workers. A 5-percent reduction in the 43 CW workers of CUC, or about two personnel, will be implemented.

"I also want to remind the board of the policy that was made last year that you're going

to have a reduction. Every time you're going to renew, you're not going to renew the whole 100 percent, you're going to reduce them," Sirok said.

The board also recognized that a problem with their processes stems from CUC's lack

of an HR manager, which has been vacant since July.

According to acting executive director John Riegel, there are already about seven who applied for the position and that they are continuing with the hiring process.

Family History Fireside hosts over 80 participants

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

A fireside chat at the beachside property of Lino Olopai last Sunday night drew over 80 participants for a project that sought to bridge the divide between the older generation and the new.

Funded by the Administration for Native Americans through the Public School System, the program, called Project Traditional Technology, was an idea that started out eight years ago as a science grant and eventually evolved into what San Vicente Elementary School students saw as an opportunity to receive technology for the school.

However, when SVES teacher and program manager Valrick Welch sought input from the community, he found out that many elders felt that technology was changing the way the youth

behaved and communicated.

"They didn't really want the technology. They said our children are coming home and, instead of eating dinner together and sharing stories, now they're texting and are seeking [Internet connectivity] to do their homework. So they hated the technology," he said.

Eventually, it was the combination of the students wanting technology and the elders wanting to spend time with their family that Project Traditional Technology was born. The now three-year project uses technology to preserve the elders' stories, the main thrust of which is for students to collect stories while spending time with their elders.

"Now the children find out they really enjoy it. Before the typhoon, we were going to the *man'amko* every Wednesday and the elders and the students

would teach each other as they interact," Welch said.

Although this is the last year of funding for the project, Welch hopes it will continue for generations to come and he is now looking at possible ways to preserve it.

According to Welch, the fireside activity symbolizes the rebirth of storytelling, cultural identity, and preservation.

Advocates for the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures spoke during the fireside chat, sharing stories of women's roles, oral traditions, and social and political struggles of the CNMI since the 1950s.

Olopai, who hosted the fireside chat, spoke of traditional beliefs stating that, "women are the keepers of everything. They keep whatever the clans own. From the breadfruit tree to the part of the reef."

See FAMILY on Page 4



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Hart prepares for leadership transition at NMC

To ensure the smooth transition and stability of leadership at the Northern Marianas College, president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart has been working with the Board of Regents to plan a leadership transition for the college. Hart had earlier signed an agreement with the board to have her contract extended by up to a year, which extends her presidency at the college to June 2016.

According to Hart, it is time for her to focus on her family. She still has a son enrolled in high school back in the U.S. mainland with whom she plans to join.

"I am looking forward to the next stage in my career and in joining my family members back in the U.S.," Hart said. "As I am now in my fifth year of service to this college it is now time to turn over the reins to someone else that can continue the great momentum that we have going at the college."

"The institution is in great hands with the Board of Regents and has an excellent group of employees that will continue to move the institution forward to address the higher educational needs of the CNMI," she added. "I have been committed to seeing the college through some very challenging times, and now that these are behind us and we are now on a solid foundation, it is time for me to take my leave."

Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama said, "Dr. Hart will be departing the college on a high note. She has been at the helm of NMC during some of its most difficult years. Under her leadership, the college has moved from show-cause status under the Western As-

sociation of Schools and Colleges-Junior Commission to accreditation reaffirmation with no reports or visits required."

"Immediately after this success, she positioned the institution to seek initial accreditation under the WASC Senior Commission," Lizama said. "This was accomplished in less than five months, with NMC receiving a six-year status under this new accreditor. The college also received approval of its substantive change proposal to add a four-year degree in Business Management."

Other accomplishments under Hart's leadership include:

- Continued increase in student enrollment. Last year in May the college also graduated its largest class in the institution's 34-year history.

- Initiated Complete College America within the institution and in the NMI with support from the governor. As a result, in March 2014 the NMI because the first U.S. territory to join 33 other states in the Complete College America Alliance of States.

- Successfully worked with the U.S. Department of Education to ensure that the college's Bachelor in Education program continues to receive federal financial aid. In 2013, the USDOE had indicated that NMC's dual accreditation (at that time NMC was accredited by both the senior and junior commission of WASC) was not in accordance with its policy, and this made NMC ineligible for Title IV Funding for the baccalaureate degree program in education.

- Obtained successful audits of the college. For the past several years, the college has received an unqualified opinion on its financial statements. This means that the financial statements, according to the independent auditor, were presented fairly, in all material aspects, and that they conformed with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.

- Secured all of Micronesia to be accepted to join the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education. As a result, the CNMI has become the first member representing

Micronesia. This membership opens the doors for all CNMI residents to avail of the numerous opportunities and savings available through the commission.

"I continue to be impressed by the dedication and commitment that NMC staff, students, and faculty have demonstrated despite many challenges the college has faced," said Hart. "I'm confident that many more great successes will continue

to come forth from the college in the years to come."

Hart said the college is committed to meeting the goals outlined in its five-year strategic plan, which focuses on workforce development efforts, college completion, student success and support, and resource development. (NMC)



Hart

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Fiesta treats *man'amko* to Thanksgiving lunch

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of their yearly commu-

nity service to the elderly, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan treated dozens of the *man'amko* yesterday to a Thanksgiving lunch to

start the holidays.

This is their seventh year of hosting the lunch. Entertainment and raffle prizes were also

provided yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort.

Abner Acosta, general manager of the resort, said this is the

hotel's way of giving back to the elderly.

"Just to remember them," Acosta told *Saipan Tribune*. "They are always in our hearts and prayers as a community."

"This is just one of our yearly activities and personally I look forward to this because I get to see them every year," he added.

Marie Salinas, one of the many *man'amko* at the lunch yesterday, said the event was a "surprise" for her.

"They woke me up to bring me over here," she said. "Today is also my birthday. It's like celebrating my birthday."

Salinas and another *man'amko*, Jess Pangelinan, said they are thankful for the luncheon for this seventh consecutive year.

What else are they thankful for this holiday season?

"We are thankful to the Lord," Pangelinan said. "We had a typhoon but nobody was killed. We are very thankful for that. We are very thankful for the federal government coming in and helping and giving us all kinds of assistance."

Salinas also noted that this was the *man'amko*'s first get-together since the storm in August as the Aging Center has been closed.

"We haven't talked to each other. We haven't seen each other," she said.

"We miss each other," added Pangelinan.

"This is like an emotional get-together now," Salinas noted. "Any occasion we get to see each other is a happy occasion."

BSI

From Page 1

said, the casino is in fact an "enclosed area," and if gaming floors at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino can be exempted from smoking bans, then Best Sunshine must also be exempted.

In a letter last Thursday to Public Health Services director Margaret Aldan, six Independent Saipan lawmakers—Reps. Edwin K. Propst, Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Edmund S. Villagomez, Ralph N. Yumul, and Vinson F. Sablan—called for "immediate action" to address the alleged violation.

Public Law 16-46—or the Smoke Free Air Act—allows for smoking on gaming floors provided that the facility is "enclosed."

The six lawmakers said that since July—when the Best Sunshine Live temporary casino opened—and as early as August—when health officials inspected the facility over the alleged complaints—the casino remains unenclosed, although Best Sunshine disputes that opinion.

In an email, Propst said he has met with a Bureau of Environmental Health official and was told that they have inspected Best Sunshine Live on two separate occasions after receiving complaints about the amount of secondhand smoke that emanates into the T Galleria and the Hard Rock Café—both adjacent shopping and restaurant establishments.

"He agreed that they are in violation of Public Law 16-46," Propst said. He did not identify the BEH official.

Propst said he also met with assistant attorney general David Lochabay and was informed that Lochabay has met with Best Sunshine lawyers on the matter. He said that Lochabay also agreed that the casino was in violation of public law.

Propst said Lochabay and Division of Public Health-NCD Bureau administrator Becky Robles are drafting a letter to educate the casino about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

"Since the opening of the casino, employees and visitors to the T Galleria and Hard Rock Café and the Noodle House near the gaming floor have been subject to toxic secondhand smoke," the lawmakers said.

"...This health hazard must be dealt with immediately," said the lawmakers—who form part of the minority bloc in the House—in their letter to DPH. "Plans of installing air curtain walls can be discussed and de-

bated, but nothing can justify the blatant violation of public law, especially one that is supposed to protect the health of the people within our community."

Phone calls requesting comment from Public Health Services director Aldan were not immediately responded to yesterday. Staff said she was in meetings.

'Ridiculous'

In his email, Propst called the casino's alleged violation of public law "absolutely ridiculous."

"The law is the law, and what is clear and evident is that Best Sunshine Live is flagrantly violating Public Law 16-46... We need to know is why there have been zero fines assessed to Best Sunshine Live and why they have not been told to stop all smoking in their gaming facility since they have failed to provide an enclosure for their casino."

Propst said even if the casino is considered as a "live training facility" and not a casino, they are still breaking the law.

Propst and the lawmakers copied Attorney General Ed Manibusan, BEH, Public Health Services, and the Commonwealth Casino Commission in their letter. Propst asked that they to address the issue immediately and "stop Best Sunshine Live from continuing to thumb their nose at our laws."

Regulators call for action

In a letter to the casino last Thursday, the Commonwealth Casino Commission said they have discussed the matter with the casino in the past few months, and asked for an update on the developments and meetings with Public Health officials.

"The commission has expressed similar concerns on the health-risks from secondhand smoke exposed to the employees and patrons... We look forward to your prompt resolution on this matter" and "prompt compliance with the Smoke Free Air Act," said commission chair Juan M. Sablan.

No violation of law

However, in response to casino regulators yesterday, Alepuyo asserted that the Smoke Free Air Act does not regulate smoking in "enclosed gaming areas of casino establishments."

She cited this definition in the Commonwealth Code: "'Enclosed area' means an area or space bounded by walls, with or without windows, continuous from floor to ceiling and enclosed by one or more doors, including but limited to an office, function room, or hallway. If an outdoor area... has a structure capable of being enclosed by walls or covers,

regardless of the materials or removable nature of the walls or covers, the area will be considered enclosed when the walls or covers are in place."

Citing this definition, Alepuyo said Best Sunshine Live meets the requirements.

"Best Sunshine Live is an area or space that is bounded by walls; some of the walls in our area have windows and some do not; some of the walls in our area flow all the way from the floor to the ceiling; and some of the walls in our area are enclosed by more than one door," she stated.

Airports versus casinos

Alepuyo compared laws regulating smoking in Commonwealth airports to laws for a casino. She notes that smoking is allowed "at the departure terminal of Commonwealth airports" provided it is in a "fully enclosed and well-ventilated area."

She said the Legislature intended to differentiate between the "enclosed area" they defined for casinos and the "fully enclosed" areas they envisioned for the airports.

Designated smoking areas in airports must be "fully covered" by walls with or without windows, from floor to ceiling with one or more doors—but not for smoking in casinos, she said.

"The Legislature intended that 'fully enclosed' areas at the airport means an area that is self-contained, unlike that of a casino."

'Take heed'

Alepuyo also noted that one of the lawmakers who signed the letter to DPH was Rep. Edmund Villagomez, then chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism in 2009, part of the same body of lawmakers who enacted Public Law 16-46 and then debated and passed an amendment to it less than two years later to "increase and allow smoking in 30 percent of all hotel and motel rooms and their balconies."

Citing Villagomez's committee report from the 17th Legislature, Alepuyo noted that these lawmakers found that increasing the amount of smoking rooms may "greatly benefit" and "assist our ailing economy."

Citing legislative record, Alepuyo noted that the House and Senate ended up in a conference committee to resolve their impasse over the bill.

The resolution—as cited in the conference committee report—notes the importance of generating revenues at airports and granting some convenience to tourists. The report highlights the casino industry on Tinian and the emerging one on Rota,

to note the need to permit smoking in fully enclosed, well-ventilated areas in CNMI airports, and "to allow smoking in the gaming areas of casino establishment."

"Coalition members did not object to this amendment," Alepuyo said.

Tinian Dynasty vs Saipan casino

Alepuyo said the same law that exempts the Tinian casino must be applied to Best Sunshine's casino, noting that when PL 16-46 was enacted in 2009, Best Sunshine Live was not even in the planning stage. Tinian had the only operating casino in the CNMI, she said.

She said the Tinian casino has an entrance that is open to the lobby and that there is a bar and a restaurant inside the casino itself, and that the smoking law as intended exempted the casino on Tinian.

"Best Sunshine Live has the same layout," Alepuyo said. "Because Tinian Dynasty and Best Sunshine Live are both casinos; because the layout of the Tinian Dynasty Casino and Best Sunshine Live are the same; and because the law on smoking exempted the Tinian Dynasty, so must the law exempt Best Sunshine Live."

The rest of her letter notes that a working committee will be formed with DPH, the Attorney General's Office, casino regulators, and the Department of Public Works to make sure they comply with "applicable laws" and uphold their integrity. It also notes that they upgraded their ventilation system and are planning to install air curtain walls to mitigate the entry of smoke into the nearby shopping malls and restaurant.

In an email response to a request for comment last night, Propst said: "I read through the long and lengthy response from... Alepuyo regarding Public Law 16-46. I am disheartened that she is putting profits over the health of Best Sunshine's employees, as well as the health of the employees at T Galleria and Hard Rock Cafe. The 'live training facility' is not enclosed. If it were enclosed, why is there so much secondhand smoke pouring into T Galleria and Hard Rock? Who exactly is Ms. Alepuyo and Best Sunshine Live trying to fool here? ...Perhaps we will need to go to court and have a judge issue an opinion here. I am willing to do this if it means ensuring that Public Law 16-46 is being followed and that we are protecting employees and patrons of T Galleria and Hard Rock Cafe. The law is the law, and no one is above the law."

SURVEY

From Page 1

He said the finding highlights the need to reach out and educate both providers and consumers of housing.

Gaudin also pointed out the lack of fair housing complaint data in the CNMI as received by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as by NMHC.

He noted that many of the 209 respondents answered "I don't know" to the questions in the survey.

There were also those that incorrectly identified the protected classes under the law.

"Respondents were also asked to identify as many groups as they could that were protected under Commonwealth or federal laws, with race and disability given as examples of protected classes. Sixty-eight respondents answered this question... no more than 12 respondents were able to correctly identify any protected group in addition to race and disability, or around 17.6 percent. Sixteen respondents incorrectly identified age as a protected class, and 11 mistakenly included income. Ten respondents correctly identified national origin as a protected class, eight respondents correctly identified gender, and five correctly identified color," the report said.

Some of the comments shared by respondents referred to the quality and safety of housing units in general. Some underscored an issue describing a

practice of "monopoly owners" buying properties and evicting current residents, and issues relating to housing costs.

According to Gaudin, fair housing takes all the protected classes and considers those actions that people feel they've been discriminated against.

"Fair housing choice, that represents something about the way you're treated in the market place—maybe it's because of your familial status, if you have children, if you're treated differently from everyone else—then that's discriminatory action," Gaudin said.

"In the housing transaction, how are you as an individual treated? If you are treated differently than everyone else because of some protected clause you belong to, then that is not fair," he added.

Asked about the situation of some tenants on island that are being evicted, Gaudin said it might fall under the landlord-tenant law and not under fair housing.

"If they evicted everyone, then you're treated the same as everyone else. But it's really the question if it's just or unjust. Then that would fall under landlord-tenant law," he said.

In conclusion, education of the public is needed.

"In general, the idea is to initially enhance outreach and education. Provide opportunities for people to better understand what fair housing is, who's protected, and what actions are also protected or ruled illegal under fair housing law under federal and the Commonwealth," Gaudin said.

FAMILY

From Page 2

Despite the many difficulties brought upon indigenous people through Western contact, ultimately "we are still a community of peacemaking and respect," he said.

The fireside chat is one of many activities leading up to the *Man'amko* Memorial Day

Memories Program to be held on May 30 of next year.

A total of 12 stories will be chosen for the *Man'amko* Memorial Day Memories Program, in which students will receive a plaque, a flash drive recorder and be recognized during the event.

For more information on story guidelines, visit pttech.org or email valrick.welch@cnmipss.org.

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Man blocks car, allegedly tries to stab motorist

A 23-year-old man allegedly blocked a car in Garapan and threatened to kill the driver with a knife on Thursday night.

Eliot Jose Elias was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$5,750 cash. Preliminary hearing is on Dec. 4 at 9am. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as

his counsel.

Police said an officer responded to the Sonoda Apartment in Garapan on Thursday at 9:21pm due to a report of a disturbing the peace incident.

The officer met with the alleged victim who told him that Elias threatened to kill him with a knife. The victim said he had just picked up a friend who resides at the Sonoda Apartment when Elias

blocked his vehicle along the road.

Elias walked to the driver's side window and asked the victim who he and his passenger were. The victim told Elias that his companion is a worker from

his business.

Elias allegedly threatened to beat both of them and told the victim to call the police or he would cut his throat.

As the victim was calling the

police on the phone, Elias allegedly tried to stab him repeatedly with a huge knife. A witness blocked Elias and pulled him away from the victim.

The victim drove to a nearby tennis court, where he waited for the police to arrive. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Celebrity bagging promotes lung and pancreatic cancer awareness

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cancer Association partnered with Joeten Enterprises last Saturday for a



DAISY DEMAPAN

Celebrity baggers gather to promote awareness of Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month at Joeten Susupe last Saturday.

celebrity bagging event at Joeten stores in Susupe, Kagman, Dandan, and Garapan.

This was the first celebrity-bagging event for Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. CCA stationed an information table and distributed flyers to customers, encouraging everyone to join the fight against cancer. CCA hopes to hold another celebrity bagging in December.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, proclaimed November as Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in late October in recognition of the CNMI's commitment to making lung cancer a public health

priority through advocacy, support, and care for those affected by cancer.

The proclamation acknowledged how lifestyle factors contribute to the risk and development of cancer and urged people to educate themselves and explore ways to decrease their risks and promote a healthier lifestyle.

It also confirmed that lung cancer is the most common cancer among residents of the CNMI. The proclamation states that 10 to 15 percent of lung cancer cases occur in people who have never smoked and over 90 percent of lung cancer cases are caused by smoking and that only 16 percent of peo-

ple diagnosed with lung cancer have a five-year survival rate.

Among those that supported the celebrity bagging event were Joeten Enterprises, IT&E, Tan Holdings, the CNMI Fire Department & EMS, Reps. Vinnie Sablan, JP Sablan, Frances Taimanao, Larry DeLeon Guerrero, and Angel Demapan, Sen. Teresita Santos, Mayor David M. Apatang, Delta Air Line's Chris Concepcion, Department of Commerce directors Frank Aguon and Frank Cabrera, the board of directors for the Paddling Federation of the Commonwealth, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro.

Marpi landfill closed Thursday

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed all day on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015, in

observance of Thanksgiving Day. Regular schedule will resume on Friday, Nov. 27, 2015, and will open from

7:30am to 11:30am, and from 12:30pm to 4pm. Please note that we have returned to our regular lunchtime closure from 11:30am to 12:30pm. (*DPW*)

Draft CNMI Wildlife Action Plan now available
for review and comment

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that have been strategically placed around the island to provide IT&E's wireless customers with premier 4G LTE wireless service. These

selected areas are Garapan, Gualo Rai, Kannat Tabla, Supe, Chalan Kanoa, and Mt. Tapochau.

"We are very excited that

our customers can now use and enjoy the best available high speed data service right here at home," said John M. Compton, IT&E's chief operating officer.

This new LTE network and expanded 4G network repre-

sents another substantial investment in the CNMI but, it is only part of the estimated \$30 million additional investment that IT&E has committed to make in the CNMI. "In addition to this expanded wireless network, we have begun the installation of a fiber optic network on Saipan as well as other projects that are all designed to increase the quality of our services to all of our customers," Compton said.

IT&E encourages its customers to stop by any IT&E store location or contact (670) 682-4483 to get more information about how to configure their mobile device to automatically connect to IT&E 4G LTE. **(IT&E)**

Tinian casino regulator charges special fee to make up for funding shortfalls

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian casino gaming regulator has charged its license holders a special fee to make up for funding shortfalls but, as of last Thursday, only Bridge Investment Group has paid the fee, according to a statement from the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission last week.

Bridge Investment Group is planning to build a casino resort on the island.

The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and its revenue flow to the island government and regulators have reportedly halted since it shut down operations in September.

BIG paid out \$102,022.56 for the special fee that the commission is allowed to assess "whenever a funding shortfall is projected," according to the commission. The deficit is shared equally among all current casino license holders and applicants, meaning each of

these holder and applicants were assessed the same amount.

In the statement, the Tinian casino commission says it issued the fee on Oct. 28. Payments of fees were due by Nov. 18.

"As of Nov. 19, Bridge Investment Group has been the only licensee or applicant to have complied with the fee assessment, even though all licensee and applicants are required to comply with the Act and regulations, including payment of the special fee assess-

ment," executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita said.

"Non-payment of fees and deposits required may affect such licenses and pending applications," she added.

In the commission's statement, Phillip Mendiola-Long of BIG states that they intend to stay in compliance with the requirements of the commission and gaming law.

"[BIG views regulations and law] not just solely as a requirement of a licensee but also a continuation of their promise to the community. It is this commitment to Tinian that the company has hired a 90-percent local workforce, including construction jobs, and has built new assets for the community. Our actions speak of our intention to 'walk the talk' and remain a true member of this community," Mendiola-Long said.

Speeding motorist allegedly found with 'ice'

A speeding motorist was arrested in Gualo Rai after methamphetamine or "ice" was allegedly found in his vehicle Sunday midnight.

According to police detective Jeffrey I. Norita, Juan Delos Reyes Tydingco, 39, confessed that he was given the 1.5 gross grams of "ice" to sell for \$270 by a male Chinese.

His bail was set at \$20,000 cash. Preliminary hearing is on Dec. 3, 2015 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Tydingco.

Norita stated in his report that a police sergeant was conducting speed enforcement along

Middle Road when his laser speed device tracked a northbound Toyota Corolla with license plate ACH-169 traveling 50 miles per hour near Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

The police sergeant chased the car, which then stopped on the shoulder of the road across BEQ Building.

The officer found that the driver was Tydingco, who was with a woman.

Tydingco identified himself as "Paul" and told the officer that he did not have his driver's license and that the car belonged to a friend.

During a consent search of the car, the officer found two baggies that contained "ice" hidden

inside the air-conditioning vent.

At first, Tydingco denied owning the baggies of "ice," but later confessed that it was given to him so he could sell it.

The female companion told police that the "ice" belonged to Tydingco, who panicked during the violator stop and handed it to her to hide it.

The woman said she hid the baggies in the vent and that Tydingco lied to the officer that his name is "Paul."

Police said the substance tested presumptive positive for "ice."

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government at the hearing. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2016. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY-MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 31, 2015 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

Hyatt, Salvation Army host dinner for volunteers

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
tamanglona@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

»Organization served 36,000 meals in August

Hyatt Regency Saipan and The Salvation Army hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner last Friday at Giovanni's, recognizing members of the community for their service at their soup kitchen in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

According to ministry leaders Pastor Wayne and Annie Gillespie, over 95 percent of volunteers after the typhoon were walk-ins.

With their help, the organization was able to serve over 36,000 meals in August alone. On one occasion, they served over 2,000 meals in four hours.

"We had very little ways to get the word out... but what we found was that in addition to our congregation, we had a lot of people who just showed up," Wayne told *Saipan Tribune*. "The incredible thing to me was that a surprising number of the volunteers had nothing left [after the typhoon] but continued to help. The volunteers



Marianas High School student volunteers pose for a photo at The Salvation Army's volunteer appreciation dinner.

did incredible things."

During the mass feedings, more than 100 volunteers were serving an average of 800 to 1,000 meals an hour.

"There were a lot of opportunities for people to volunteer on the island and we are so grateful for the wonderful people who are here and chose the Salvation Army," said volunteer coordinator Anastasia Scott. "It was not a comfortable situation...and people still came back and I am incredibly gracious that they did."

One volunteer, a 16-year-old Marianas High School student, described her and her friend's experience at the soup kitchen as "heartwarming."

"We were able to really give back to the community... It was really sad to see how many people were affected by the typhoon," she said.

Donors were also awarded with plaques and recognized at last week's event. The Salvation Army will be hosting a Thanksgiving lunch at noon this Thursday at their soup kitchen, which is open to the public. The organization will also be providing transportation to a number of families who will be joining them in their annual Thanksgiving event.

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China city planning experts meet with Torres, Hocog



Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, center, welcomes Dr. Hu Bo, second from right, to the Office of the Governor. Others in the photo are, from left, Qingyu Liu, Kevin Lee, and Jia Yu.

Four of China's expert city planners and architects met with acting governor Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Victor B. Hocog yesterday to share ideas about their "GreenStay" Project, which aims to help rebuild homes that were destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor.

The four city planners—Kevin Lee, Crystal Wang, Qingyu Liu, and Jia Yu—were accompanied by Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo during their meeting at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

Lee is currently the acting director of the Shanghai Jiaotong University's Advanced Institute

of Finance Wang has 15 years of experience in the field of real estate, marketing, and urban/rural development. Liu is an architect who is currently the co-partner and architectural design director for YanHuang International Architecture & Engineering Co. Ltd., one of the biggest architectural design firms in Beijing that is overseeing the architectural planning for the city, landscaping, and interior design, to name a few.

During yesterday's meeting, Bo explained that the new technology for GreenStay will provide an affordable way to rebuild homes that were de-

stroyed by the typhoon.

"It has several important features. It is innovative, economical, environmentally sustainable, convenient, and nature friendly," Bo said.

"This is our first time to visit Saipan and we all really like it here: comfortable weather, friendly people, and delicious local food. However, at the same time, we feel really devastated when we saw a lot of fallen trees and destroyed houses around the island," said Wang. "When Dr. Bo of Skywalker approached us with the GreenStay idea and the reason for his desire to take on such a project, I

was more than willing to do my part to assist with this mission. Everyone, all families, deserved to have a safe place to live."

Li said: "It's our honor to meet the lieutenant governor and Senate president to talk about the GreenStay project and we really appreciated all the valuable information and support provided by them."

"We will try our best to upgrade the house designs to be more suitable for local people and to ensure that it is acceptable to the local market."

The same group also met with Saipan Mayor David Apatang last week. *(Skywalker)*

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE REPORT

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) would like to inform the general public that the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice report is available for public review.

The report can be reviewed at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office, NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota. The report is also available online for review at www.nmhc.gov.net.

Written comments regarding the report should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 14, 2015 to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. You may also submit your comments via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp.

If you may have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670)234-6866/7689.

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any special accommodations please contact our office.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

THIS
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FOR EVERYONE



Life In Motion

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 233Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

Tech and terrorists

In the aftermath of the bloody terrorist attacks in Paris, top national security officials and their allies in Congress called again for technology companies to ensure that the government can unscramble what their users have encrypted. For example, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, told Politico: "Technology exists today that allows terrorists and criminals to communicate in the shadows, using encryption that makes it impossible for law enforcement or national security authorities to do everything they can to protect Americans."

Added Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., on MSNBC: "Silicon Valley has to take a look at their products, because if you create a product that allows evil monsters to communicate in this way—to behead children, to strike innocents, whether it's at a game in a stadium, in a small restaurant in Paris, take down an airliner—that's a big problem."

The targets of the senators' ire are companies such as Apple and Google, whose devices can encrypt users' data in ways that even the companies cannot unscramble. That's a relatively recent shift; the companies previously could unlock users' messages or files in response to a court order. But after the leaks by Edward Snowden, a number of tech companies gave up that ability to mollify consumers concerned about widespread government surveillance. Now, the only way to decrypt such a file may be to gain access to the suspect's device and, in some cases, persuade the suspect to help.

It's not surprising to hear politicians argue for more surveillance powers after a terrorist attack. Yet before we try to strike a new balance between the competing interests of public safety and personal privacy (or individual liberty, for that matter), it's important to know just what the threat is and how best to respond to it.

While it's clear that some terrorists are using encryption, investigators haven't shown that the plotters behind the Paris attacks or other recent Islamic State atrocities hid behind an impenetrable curtain of digital noise. So Grassley and Feinstein may be deriving the wrong lesson from the carnage. Instead of worrying about intercepted data being indecipherable, they should be worrying whether we're simply not gathering enough data about Islamic State and its tentacles across Europe, Africa and South Asia, and if so, how to fix that problem.

Beyond that, the terrorists have made no secret of the fact that they're developing and deploying their own encryption programs. Requiring Apple, Google and other mainstream tech companies to offer only breakable encryption may not affect Islamic State, but it will certainly leave millions of everyday consumers more vulnerable to much more common threats than terrorists: hackers and identity thieves. As Apple CEO Tim Cook recently noted, it's impossible to weaken encryption for the good guys' sake without doing the same for the bad guys.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times



Terrorism in the news: Tips for mindful consumption

The formulaic saturation coverage that follows any major terrorist atrocity can be riveting. The first cycles of coverage, however, are often hyped-up, alarmist, confusing, exploitive, premature and ultimately wildly inaccurate when more facts emerge.

Today's media—24/7, mobile, ubiquitous, instantly global, professionally produced and raw—becomes a cognitive tsunami during a big story. Nothing is bigger news than a massive terror strike and breathless coverage leaves many feeling overloaded, scared, baffled, cynical and belligerently opinionated.

So for conscientious but frustrated newbies, I offer some tips that may help for more mindful encounters with today's media in the fog after major terrorists events.

■ Remember that manipulating public and political reaction in the targeted country or community is the dominant goal of a terrorist act. Terrorism is commonly defined as the use of violence (on civilians and innocents) to pursue goals instead of military force or legitimate political avenues. Generating excessive public fear (terror), inspiring shortsighted political or military reactions, creating global propaganda and the illusion of real power to rev up their followers are what constitutes success.

Aside from eliminating the perpetrators and their networks, the most effective public, rhetorical and political responses are actually understatement, calm and projecting existential invincibility. This is what terrorism experts prescribe, but it is difficult for democracies in the today's media age.

■ Be wary even of the "consensus" conclusions of officialdom in the early days.

Paul Pillar was a senior CIA official and a top counter-terrorism hand, now at the Brookings Institution and Georgetown. After the Paris attacks, he wrote that a "strong public consensus" emerged that they were the work of Islamic State leadership in Syria. Pillar says, "That may turn out to be the case, but whether it does or doesn't, Western policy-makers have at least a political imperative to respond as if this were already established fact." Damn the facts, write the speeches.

Understanding this dynamic should lead to healthy skepticism about any early "consensus."

■ Live television coverage can drive you nuts (and if it doesn't, you might try to get out a little more). TV is useful for the high quality video, for a sense of place, for seeing and hearing key players directly. It is also inefficient and thin compared to more convenient alternatives.

The big TV news event is constantly satirized for good reason. Pressure for scoops leads to errors and a silly focus on what "we have learned exclusively"—no matter how incremental. It overplays spats between hacks, gaffes and the most outrageous quotes floating around the blabosphere. It is obsessed with finding people and agencies to blame. And there is the exploitation of victims, the

By **DICK MEYER**

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodeddc). Readers may send him email at dick.meyer@scripps.com.



melodrama amidst true drama.

Most major newspaper and news sites now produce live blogs for these big stories. They get the hard news out just as fast as broadcasters, usually with more careful phrasing, and with links to confirming sources, background material and reporting from other news outlets. It's all on-demand and you can pursue what you want.

■ Ignore the polling. Instant-polls rarely have enduring value and almost always err on the side of emotion and jerking knees. Public opinion returns to the norm quickly. For example, views about the threat to Americans' safety from terrorism have barely changed since 9/11 even though very, very few Americans have been casualties of Islamic terrorism since then.

■ Beware of buzzwords—they tend to perpetuate half-truths. There is no better example than the word "mastermind." A new book called "Chasing Ghosts: The Policing of Terrorism" by John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart, has a persuasive section called "The Myth of the Mastermind." It turns out there are very few genuine masterminds in the history of terrorism. Most supposed masterminds are actually murderous, delusional zealots who stumbled through a plot that escaped detection more through luck than cunning.

Every murder, every atrocity is not the work of a mastermind. Mindlessly using that word inflates both our fears and the aura of the terrorists' competence.

■ Apply extra-strength skepticism to the most dire predictions and prognosticators. The most pessimistic voices naturally pose as the most brutally realistic or "serious." Dick Cheney would be the dark master of this. But since 9/11, none of the commonly predicted worst-case terrorist scenarios materialized in America or the West. They could, yes, but they haven't.

Seen from the perspective of public health instead of moral outrage or a scary "clash of civilizations," terrorism is not a substantial threat to Americans in Americans. Islamic terrorists have caused few fatalities in the U.S. since 9/11, far fewer than the "consensus" predicted.

■ Don't feel bad if you want to tune out for a couple weeks. Hard information will be more plentiful, reliable accounts produced, sounder analyses published and the more irresponsible candidates and legislators will be bingeing on the next big thing.

With luck, these tips won't be needed anytime soon—or often.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Keeping the Islamic State from our doorstep

The Islamic State was on the radar screens of most Americans even before the Paris attacks. But now the question of who they are and what they want has taken on greater urgency.

The terrorist group, which already commands a large swath of territory across Syria and Iraq, is on the march. The Islamic State is in the opening stage of global campaign to show the world that it cannot be humbled. And we have to assume that the American homeland is on its hit list.

In 2014, the Islamic State broke out of Syria, rolled up the Iraqi army and declared a caliphate—the recreation of the historic state that once governed most of the Islamic world. Having made this bold move, the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, must have known he was making a big gamble. He couldn't survive, after all, without sustaining the narrative of the Islamic State as a growing power to be reckoned with.

But al-Baghdadi has good reason to be optimistic. The Islamic State attracted tens of thousands of foreign fighters from around the world to swell their ranks and bolster the claim that the caliphate was the core of a global Islamist insurgency. The group rakes in, by some estimates, \$1 million a day in oil revenue.

The world didn't stand idly by and watch the Islamic State fight to win the Middle East. All told, there have been some 8,000 bombing runs over Iraq and Syria. The U.S. and others have funneled support to fighters who have pushed back against the Islamists, occasionally

making tactical gains such as the recent Kurdish attack on Sinjar, Iraq.

Yet the Islamic State is still standing and shows no sign of leaving the scene. Even the most optimistic assessment, the president's ill-timed claim that the Islamic State is "contained," is a far cry from the White House's initial declaration over a year ago that the group would be "destroyed."

Still, surviving isn't what the Islamic State is all about. The group has to sustain the image that al-Baghdadi's boys are winners, which means taking the battles to the enemy. And that includes the American homeland.

Plenty of evidence already exists that the Islamic State is trying. The director of the FBI acknowledged that virtually every field office had an open Islamic State-related investigation. There have been numerous Islamic State-inspired terrorist plots uncovered in the U.S. in recent months.

After Paris, it's pretty clear that the Islamic State has demonstrated the ability to pull off a sophisticated overseas terrorist attack. What's more, the group has demonstrated the capacity to learn and adapt. They have improvised methods to facilitate terrorist travel and eluded surveillance by intelligence services.

The Islamic State is also adopting and combining terrorist tactics used by others over the years. They are practiced at using social media for propaganda and resorting to the "dark web" for masking operational planning and coordinating.

The Islamic State, of course, can't be everywhere and attack ev-

By **JAMES JAY CARAFANO**

The Heritage Foundation



James Jay Carafano is vice president of the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy and the E. W. Richardson Fellow at The Heritage Foundation (www.heritage.org).

everything. Even with the surge of global terrorist activity, the likelihood of the average American dying in a terrorist attack is less than the possibility of being struck down by a meteorite.

Still, the Islamic State is a problem worth worrying about. If they successfully attack here, they will kill someone and potentially disrupt the lives of many. That would burnish the narrative that they're strong and we're weak, which would enable them to attract still more recruits.

Whenever threats such as the Islamic State pop up, so do bumper-sticker answers for keeping America safe, from sealing the border to strip-searching Muslims. They are all colossal wastes of time that would eat up a lot of time and money on activities that might address the core problem only by accident.

Not to oversimplify, but the most effective way to stop terrorists is to find them and disrupt their plots before they kill people. In the end, just trying to fend off the Islamic State forever is unlikely to work. If we want to stop these terrorists, we can't stay on defense. We have to go after them.

Give Middle East refugees a chance to fight the Islamic State

Boots on the ground are the only means by which the Islamic State will be ultimately denied its safe havens inside Syria and Iraq. Both feared and favored, boots means young men grinding out military victories and suffering unexpected defeats house-by-house, street-by-street in a foreign land far away.

Military planners agree that air campaigns can help contain the Islamic State and that intelligence can tip off the world to planned attacks. But there is no cheap, easy or effective way to kill the culprits who are plotting the strategic collapse of civilized society. Boots on the ground are necessary for defeating them where they now freely organize and operate.

The question becomes: Whose boots?

Recent experience shows American boots should be the very last ones to hit the ground in the current fight. France and Russia have just suffered horrendous tragedies, but they should keep their troops off the battlefield, too. A big part of the Islamic State strategy is to hit the civilized world with high visibility, horrifying attacks as in Paris and lure foreign fighting forces onto their territory and into their trap.

The only credible and capable boots are local ones, indigenous forces fighting to survive where they live, neighborhood natives who speak the language and know the backstreets of their hometowns. Unfortunately, those potential forces are currently outgunned, outmanned and on the run. They are fleeing the area by

the millions, with hundreds of thousands heading by land and sea to Europe as refugees seeking political asylum.

These devastated and humiliated hordes are abandoning their homes, often leaving their friends and families behind, putting their hopes in a somewhat distant dream of European security and opportunity.

If this is war, as France's President Francois Hollande has declared, then it is now time to muster that able and fleeing manpower to help shape a positive future and salvage homelands.

Instead of the world shutting the door to Syrian and other Middle Eastern refugees, a newly forming anti-Islamic State coalition should invite these people to join a new operational force and give them the training, resources and support needed to liberate their lands and reclaim their homes.

Instead of shunting them to refugee camps or suburban ghettos to be idle or unemployed, Europe should develop a plan and an incentive to organize and deploy them in a fight for their families' dignity and survival.

Naturalized European citizenship can be one such major incentive. Europe could copy an American program reinvigorated following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The United States offers an immediate path to naturalization to individuals, and their spouses, enlisted in the U.S. armed forces during wartime. In fact, between 2002 and 2015, more than 100,000 service members have become naturalized American citizens.

By **MARKOS KOUNALAKIS**

The Sacramento Bee



Markos Kounalakis is a research fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. He wrote this for The Sacramento Bee.

The French Foreign Legion, too, has a similar program. As early as 1871, foreigners who fought for this unique military branch received the option of French citizenship at the end of their service. Even today, a foreigner serving France and injured in battle receives citizenship via a provision of "Français par le sang versé" — "French by spilled blood."

Such a program should be extended throughout the continent for newly enlisted combat troops. These forces could muster, train and stage in Syrian border countries Lebanon and Turkey — both nations recent Islamic State terror targets. A successful military campaign could create the conditions for them to return home to Iraq and Syria; their sacrifice, service and sworn allegiance to coalition armed force nations should earn them the option to live and work in their new countries.

The need for a coalition of air, sea and intelligence support will be crucial for any ground fighting force, with the United States and France already upping their commitment in this struggle. Winning on the ground will disrupt and eventually destroy the Islamic State's formidable resources and capacities.

Winning the ground game is critical, but only the beginning. The real war will forever be the war of ideas.

Why Ben Carson is unraveling

We shouldn't be surprised that the wheels are coming off of the poorly built Ben Carson bus.

The Carson phenomenon has never been about his ideas or experience. For most of his supporters, it is about Carson not being Barack Obama. That's why seeing his personal story peeled apart is more upsetting to his supporters than the fact that he lacks even the most basic knowledge and skills to lead the country.

It is Carson himself who centralized his life story as the fundamental—possibly only—reason he should be elected commander in chief. He made spectacular claims that he cannot back up. His West Point "scholarship" offer, a supposed near-homicidal stabbing he carried out and his run-in with an armed robber are all uncorroborated, though he has written about and told these stories for years.

Either he knew they were fabrications and embellishments, or, perhaps more disturbingly, he genuinely came to believe his own lies.

It is telling that Carson's main campaign adviser is the disgraced conservative activist Armstrong Williams, who has had his own struggles with ethics and truth-telling. Williams lost his multiple gigs as a television commentator after it was revealed that he was being paid to promote President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind policy, a fact he failed to reveal on numerous occasions when he praised the initiative.

Williams, who is African-American and a leading strategist behind the Carson political machine, must have approved Carson's bizarre rap-song radio ad. Though Carson and his fans tout his lack

By **CLARENCE LUSANE**

Tribune News Service



Clarence Lusane is the chairman of the political science department at Howard University. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

of interest in race as his most attractive quality, they clearly are not above shameless pandering to try to woo black voters.

They ignore the fact that Carson's positions on the Confederate flag, Ferguson, Mo., the Black Lives Matter movement and President Obama are wildly out of sync with the views of most African-Americans. Only in some alternative reality can Carson and his campaign assume that his racial pandering, as his conservatives supporters would phrase it, could succeed.

There are dark clouds on the horizon. Carson seems to be cracking under the pressure of increased scrutiny, lashing out at the media and disingenuously accusing reporters of going especially hard on him.

But no amount of umbrage aimed at the press can hide the fact that Carson is stupendously unqualified, although this may not matter to a Republican base seeking a right-wing messiah rather than a genuine political leader.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Mr. Ayuyu!

Dear Mr. Ayuyu of McDonald's Saipan:

The student bus shelter at the entrance of As Teo was destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor and the students surrounding that area were left without a shelter while waiting for their bus rides to school. At this juncture, I take this opportunity to express and extend *un dangkulu na si yuus maase* and sincerely thank you for heeding our request for the repair of the shelter. Your immediate action on our request truly reflects your sincerest interest and commitment to the welfare and safety of our students.

On behalf of the communities, especially the parents and students from I-Denni and As Teo and my office, we are very thankful and grateful to you and the McDonald's family for your quick and immediate action in completing the repair of the student bus shelter.

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua

Chairman, Committee on Education and Youth Affairs
19th CNMI Legislature

PSS SPED program still working to close learning gap

A total of 873 students in public and private schools of all ages are being provided special education services, yet schools are still faced with the challenge of finding qualified staff to adequately meet all the needs of these students, according to Public School System SPED program director Suzanne Lizama.

This issue and more were the focus last Wednesday when the Special Education State Advisory Panel or SESAP convened to discuss the program’s successes and challenges.

The hardest part, Lizama said, is that “every school is supposed to have at least two HQT [highly qualified teachers] but they don’t and they are essentially the curriculum planners for our students.”

“We have too many aides... and we are losing teachers,” she said.

Of the 873 in the special education program, 108 have autism; two have deaf-blindness; nine suffer from emotional disturbance; 26 have hearing impairments; 57 have intellectual disabilities; 41 have multiple disabilities; seven have orthopedic impairments; 91 suffer health impairments that hinder their learning abilities such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, attention deficit disorder, uncontrolled diabetes, hemophilia and cancer; 382 have specific learning abilities; 19 have speech or language im-

pairments; three have traumatic brain injuries; four have visual impairments, and 124 have development delays.

Lizama said that 80 percent of these students are in regular class settings everyday.

“Every school should have highly qualified teachers to give students the education they deserve. Even though there are a lot of good things happening, I just wish the Legislature would put a portion of the scholarship fund, just 10 percent, to be appropriated for master’s degrees in hard-to-fill positions,” she said.

She said PSS is not the only entity that needs these positions, citing as an example the Division of Youth Services and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Although PSS has teacher aides to supplement the contact teachers for the special education program, it is not ideal. “You can count the number of vacancies for SPED teachers... There are many vacancies and I wish I could fill them all,” she said.

For middle schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the data showed that for 229 special education students, there are only 13 HQTs with the help of numerous aides.

For elementary schools, it’s 269 students to 16 teachers and for high schools it’s 282 students to nine teachers.

Despite this, Lizama noted that the special education pro-

gram graduated 80 percent of their students, based on their 2014 annual performance report. This is a 10-percent increase over their 2013 performance.

Lizama said a large percentage of students with disabilities were suspended or expelled last year due to various factors so the program worked to reduce this with the use of alternative education and in-school suspension.

The annual performance report further showed that 47 percent of students who graduated from the program were either in college or employed within a year.

Lizama spoke on the State Systemic Improvement Plan and their movement into Phase 2 of the plan, which aims to have at least 55 percent of third grade students with Individual-

ized Education Plans in three target schools to perform at or above reading proficiency against grade level and alternate academic achievement standards by June 30, 2019.

According to the SSIP Phase 1 component, “The overall trend data for reading proficiency of 3rd grade students with IEP indicates a downward trend over the last four years. The proficiency gap between 3rd grade students with and without disabilities has steadily increased over the past few years and the gap continues in subsequent grades.”

According to the SSIP, PSS is aware that academic improvement may take up to four years, which will eventually show improvement in the learning gap amongst all students and not just those with IEPs. *(Daisy Demapan)*

Celebrate Christmas with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir

The public is invited to enjoy four dazzling Christmas shows featuring The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and special guest stars to ring in this holiday season. The programs will be shown on the big screen over the next four Sunday evenings beginning on Nov. 29 at the Mormon Church on Middle Road in Chalan LauLau. Each show will begin at 6pm and admission is free. The concerts are scheduled as follows:

■ Sunday, Nov. 29: “The Most Wonderful Time of

the Year” with Natalie Cole and David McCullough

■ Sunday, Dec. 6: “Once Upon a Christmas” with Jane Seymour and Nathan Gunn

■ Sunday, Dec. 13: “Home for the Holidays” with Alfie Boe and Tom Brokaw

■ Sunday, Dec. 20: “Keep Christmas with You” with Muppets from Sesame Street and Santino Fontana from “Frozen”

Run time for each show is approximately 90 minutes. *(PR)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 7th birthday to Jealexiz! Having a daughter means seeing a thousand rainbows everyday, a thousand occasions of sweet hurray, a thousand sweet dreams every night, and a thousand reasons to laugh and smile. I love you to the moon and back and a gazillion times over. Greetings come from Mommy Claire.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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P.O. Box 503758
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Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Executrix Jessica M. Kisa

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:

JESUS LIZAMA KISA,
Deceased.

Civil Action
No. 15-0005

NOTICE OF HEARING
ON THE PETITION
FOR FINAL DECREE
OF DISTRIBUTION

DATE: 12/01/15
TIME: 1:30PM
JUDGE: Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS,
OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JESUS LIZAMA KISA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jessica M. Kisa,
Executrix of the Estate of Jesus Lizama Kisa, has filed
with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Final
Decree of Distribution**. The attorney for Petitioner
is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law**, whose
address is **Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box
503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of
Distribution has been set for the 1st day of December,
2015 at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested
persons or entities should appear at this hearing.
Dated this 9th day of November 2015.

Clerk of Court
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms,
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC
LAND TRUST,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL R. MUÑA,
and MINA L. MUÑA,
Defendants.

) Civil Action
) No. 11-0078
)
) NOTICE OF
) HEARING ON
) PLAINTIFF'S
) MOTION TO
) CONFIRM SALE
) OF MORTGAGED
) PROPERTY
)
)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to
Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff
Marianas Public Land Trust in this matter has
been filed with the Court and said Motion is
set for a hearing on this 10th day of December,
2015, at 1:30pm before Judge David Wiseman
in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2015.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT
DEPUTY CLERK

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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(A) Not attending any school

(B) Not younger than 16 or older than age 24 and

(C) Meet one or more of the following:

1. A school dropout

2. A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter.

School year calendar is based on how the local school district defines its school year quarters.

3. A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is either basic skills deficient or an English language learner

4. An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system

5. A homeless individual, a runaway, an individual who is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or an individual who is an out-of-home placement

6. An individual who is pregnant or parenting

7. An individual with a disability

8. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment

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This ad is paid for by the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

Quietly, Guam slated to become a massive new US military base

By ADAM ASHTON
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

HAGATNA, Guam—Thousands of Marines will land on this island sometime in the next few years, and their first steps will fall on a sturdy-as-granite pier in a sheltered Pacific harbor newly rebuilt to carry wave after wave of tank-driving troops.

“We’re ready for them,” said Cmdr. David Ellis, the executive officer at a Navy base that’s been swelling with military construction projects to prepare for the new troops.

What’s less certain is what the Marines will do when they get here.

This U.S. territory in the Western Pacific, long a way station for passing jets and submarines, is about to become a hub for a force of 4,800 Marines who’ll be charged with readying for war and disasters in East Asia.

The trouble is the Pentagon has not yet persuaded two nearby islands to accept a proposal that would give the Marines a space to train during their Pacific patrols. And some are suggesting, subtly, that it may be difficult to station so many military service members on Guam if they cannot train nearby.

On one island, Tinian, a Marine plan to practice ground maneuvers is setting off fears that the sounds of mortars and rocket blasts will quash a budding Chinese-backed tourism-casino industry. The companies behind the casinos have been hinting they’d pull out if the Marine proposal becomes a reality.

On the other, Pagan, a proposal to make a massive international military training zone on an island known for its namesake volcano is hitting a nerve among people who dream of returning to it three decades after an eruption forced their evacuation.

Both islands are governed by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a separate U.S. territory that revealed its concerns when it hired an attorney known for fighting Pentagon plans in the Pacific.

“Having a place to fire cannons and practice obviously is essential, but this just isn’t the right place,” said Nick Yost, the San Francisco attorney hired by the Commonwealth.

It’s another clash in the Defense Department’s campaign to find new places for the U.S. and its allies to practice military exercises near the scene of brewing conflicts in East Asia.

They’re drawn to Guam and the Mariana Islands because they’re American territories that would offer reliable space without worries of a foreign government suddenly revoking a partnership with the U.S. military. That’s been a concern for military planners since the Philippine government booted the Navy from its base at Subic Bay in 1992.

In Guam and the Marianas, the Defense Department wants to create a space for large-scale exercises involving every branch of the American military and its Pacific allies. It would be adjacent to the Navy’s underwater training range in the Mariana trench, providing a rare location for the military to integrate sea and land warfare.

It also would help the military draw down its ranks on the Japanese island of Okinawa, where a dense concentration of Marine bases has motivated popular public protests for decades.

Japan, which hosts most of the troops who would be sent to Guam, is paying for more than a third of the estimated \$8.7 billion cost of creating the new Marine



The *Ashland* LSD, a dock landing ship, sits in the newly refurbished Victor Wharf on Naval base Guam on Aug. 5, 2015.

MCCLATCHY DC/TNS

facilities. Japan likely would participate in joint exercises if the training grounds are built, and Marines on Guam would be expected to respond to a disaster in Japan, 1,400 miles to the west.

“It’s location, location, location. We’re U.S. sovereign soil and we’re basically in the same time zone as Japan. The next closest U.S. soil is a seven-hour flight to Hawaii,” said Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, one of the boosters behind the military buildup in Guam and the neighboring Northern Mariana Islands.

But the plan carries a too heavy footprint for some islanders, who want to see a smaller military presence on territories the U.S. has held since it seized them from Japan in World War II.

The military controls more than a quarter of the land on Guam’s 212 square miles. The territory contains a sprawling Navy base, with special operations teams and docks for several submarines, as well as an Air Force base that houses a bomber group.

Adding the new training areas would mean that three of the 15 islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands north of Guam would be used mostly for the military. The U.S. already uses one for aircraft bombing practice.

“We’re going to become this island with only one purpose, and that will be for the military,” said Victoria Lola-Guerrero, 33, who has been protesting the military plans for the past five years.

Her activism under the banner of a group called We Are Guahan compelled the Pentagon to scale down its original plan for Guam, one that would have sent far more Marines to the island on a much faster timeline.

It also would have taken privately owned land near Pagat, an ancient ocean-side village cherished by locals, to create a firing range for Marine machine guns.

At that time, the Pentagon wanted to quickly halve the 19,000 Marines stationed on Okinawa. It would have

sent some 8,600 troops to Guam with an additional 9,000 military family members, potentially overwhelming a territory that has just 160,000 residents.

We Are Guahan worked with attorney Yost to file a lawsuit against the plan, forcing the Pentagon to look at other options. The result was a blueprint the Navy approved in August, calling for fewer than 5,000 Marines on Guam and backing off the use of Pagat as a firing range.

It was a win for the activists, but some in the group want to go further. They feel as if their preference—no new Marines on Guam—was never considered.

“Is it a better plan than the first one? Yes,” said Guam attorney Leevin Camacho, 37, who worked with Lola-Guerrero at We Are Guahan. “Is it a good plan? That’s the operative question. It’s almost like old-school negotiating where you offer something so unreasonable that anything after sounds like, ‘We’re accommodating you.’”

With the plans for the Guam buildup set, activists now are pushing back against the military’s proposal for the islands of Tinian and Pagan. Natives on Guam and the Marianas have a common heritage as descendants of an indigenous people called Chamorros, making their efforts a shared cause across the island chain.

Tinian, where Chinese companies claim they want to build three multimillion-dollar casinos, contains the runway the Air Force used to strike Hiroshima with an atomic bomb in August 1945. The military has a lease to use much of the island, but locals describe the current activities as “unobtrusive.”

The island has about 3,000 residents who’ve been raising concerns that increased military training could curtail investment or restrict the small planes they rely on for travel.

“Tinian is incredibly small,” said Gov. Eloy Inos, the commonwealth’s

elected leader. “In all honesty, some of the specific live fire training activities the Marines are proposing for Tinian just do not seem appropriate.”

The would-be casino investors have been making their views clear, too. Their moves are the subject of gossip throughout the islands, because no one can tell how serious they are about a turning a remote island in the Western Pacific into a premier resort.

One of the casino proposals comes from a Chinese company called Alter City Group, which has pledged about \$500 million in investment on Tinian.

The military proposal would “significantly alter the island as we know it in dramatically irreparable ways and readily acknowledges that it will impact the island for future generations,” the company wrote in response to the Marine plan. “The military has suggested activities which adversely impact the island of Tinian, its residents and adjacent operators like ACG. The benefits from the military with the (proposal) are minimal, but the burdens are significant and unsustainable.”

Pagan, known for its active volcano, hasn’t had much of a population since Mount Pagan’s eruptions drove away residents in the early 1980s. Yet it’s considered a homeland for many Chamorro descendants who want to return there.

Gov. Inos regularly hears from residents who want to stake claims on the island despite the volcano’s continuing eruptions.

The island also has inspired its few visitors to speak out against a proposal that would turn it into a military training ground for up to four months of the year.

“We all came back feeling ‘let’s put our bodies in front of the bullets,’” said Michael Hadfield, a professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii who participated in a wildlife survey on Pagan in 2010.

He and his colleagues were taken

by the island’s beauty. They grew concerned that it would meet a fate similar to the Hawaiian island of Kahoolawe, the former Navy bombing range that remains mostly uninhabited decades after the military ceased using it for training.

“If they station 2,000 Marines on it and blast the hell out of it, what we’re talking about is the destruction of the place. If they do it, it’s gone,” he said.

Military leaders are being diplomatic about their plans, inviting feedback to make a stronger proposal. They twice extended a public comment period on the first draft this summer. The Marines received 9,000 public comments about the training plan and have agreed to conduct a further study on possible impacts to coral off of Tinian and Pagan. An updated draft is expected next year.

The alternatives for Pacific training likely would be in other countries, such as Australia or the Philippines. Gov. Inos wants the military to look hard at those sites before settling on Tinian and Pagan.

“There are training capabilities that the Marines need that cannot be provided on Guam. If it fails to proceed, it’s to the deficiency of the Marines,” said Navy Cmdr. Dan Schaan, who managed the final plans for the Guam buildup.

On Guam, some political and business leaders are concerned that the military will retract its investment in their territory if it can’t train on Tinian or Pagan.

They’re hoping to build on the first wave of Marines heading to Guam, aiming to draw in more troops and military families over time.

“This is so big that people are going to have to learn to get along,” said John Thomas Brown, the director of a business-backed group called the Guam-U.S. Security Alliance, which favors the military buildup. “If they can’t get the Marianas, they aren’t going to come. It can be done. It should be done. Time is wasting.”

Business

Experts foresee big premium increases for Medicare drug plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—With time running out on open enrollment season, many seniors are facing sharply higher premiums for Medicare's popular prescription drug program. The reason: rising drug costs have overtaken a long stretch of stable premiums.

Beneficiaries have until Dec. 7 to see if there's a lower-cost plan that will cover their medications in 2016. Consumer advocates and experts say it will pay to shop around this sign-up season.

"Premiums are going up. Deductibles are going up," said Tricia Neuman, a Medicare expert with the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "There is some potential to save a lot of money by switching plans."

Government spending on the program also has risen significantly, driven by pricey new drugs, notably for hepatitis C infection. The cost for the hepatitis drugs in the Medicare program is expected to be \$9.2 billion this year, a near doubling from 2014. Because of the prescription program's financial structure, taxpayers cover most of the cost for expensive

medications. Three out of four adults infected with hepatitis C are baby boomers, the group now entering Medicare. Also known as "Part D," Medicare's prescription plan serves about 40 million older and disabled people. Benefits are provided through a variety of insurance arrangements.

Stand-alone drug plans that work with traditional Medicare are the most popular, accounting for more than half of beneficiaries—about 24 million people.

Sal Natale, a retired dentist who lives near Tampa, Florida, said prescription premiums for him and his wife are going up about 30 percent next year, and he doesn't see a good alternative.

"I'm just going to grin and bear and hope it starts moderating," Natale said. The couple is signed up in the Humana Enhanced plan, one of the top 10. Nationally, premiums for that plan are going up by about \$13 a month, according to the Kaiser foundation.

Indicators signal rising costs across the program. Among them:

■ independent estimates by



AP
In this Nov. 17, 2015, photo, Sal Natale looks over a Medicare brochure at his home in Seminole, Fla.

Kaiser and the consulting firm Avalere Health show increasing premiums for stand-alone drug plans. The average premium will rise from \$36.68 to \$41.46 per month next year, or 13 percent, according to Kaiser. Even if many beneficiaries switch to

lower-cost options, it's likely to be the biggest increase since 2009.

■ the maximum deductible for prescription coverage will rise by \$40, to \$360. That's the biggest increase in the deductible since the inception of Part D in 2006. The deductible is the amount of drug costs that beneficiaries must pay each year before their insurance kicks in.

-taxpayer expenditures for the "catastrophic" portion of the benefit—in which beneficiaries with high drug bills pay only 5 percent of the cost—will rise by \$4.5 billion in 2016, an increase of more than 14 percent. Spending for catastrophic coverage has doubled in just a short time, from \$15.5 billion in 2012 to an estimated \$31.2 billion this year.

The analyses from Kaiser and Avalere are seemingly at odds with the message coming from the Obama administration, which estimates that drug premiums will remain stable in 2016, averaging \$32.50 a month.

But the administration and the independent analysts measure differently. For example, the administration adjusts its number for the estimated impact of people assumed to be switching to lower-premium plans.

The outside analysts don't make similar assumptions. Instead, they focus on what's happening to premiums in the plans for which people are currently signed up.

Nationally, average premiums are going up by more than 15 percent in five of the top eight plans, according to the Kaiser study. Two plans will see single-digit increases. One plan—SilverScript Choice—will see a small reduction. The most popular plan—AARP MedicareRx Preferred—will go up from \$50.19 to \$60.79, a 21 percent increase.

Avoid extremes, seek common ground

Q: In the family business where I work, the owner and his son have very different perspectives. The owner is always looking for growth opportunities, while "Stan" tends to focus on maintaining the status quo. Although I have good relationships with both of them, the owner and I tend to think more alike.

Whenever I propose changes that could help the business, Stan always finds a reason to object. During these conversations, I am torn between giving in and pleasing Stan or moving forward and making progress. I know that his dad will support my ideas, but I don't want to alienate Stan by going over his head.

I love my job and hope to stay with this company for a long time, so I need some advice on managing this situation. What would you suggest?

A: By defining your options as "giving in" versus "moving forward," I believe you are creating a false choice. Focusing only on these two extremes will inevitably create frustration, resentment and unproductive arguments. Instead, you should consider finding a middle path that involves having collaborative discussions with Stan.

Because you and Stan seem to have complementary thinking styles, considering both perspectives will actually pro-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



duce better results. Your focus on the future will contribute to long-term success, while Stan's concern for immediate needs will help to keep operations running smoothly. If the two of you can stop viewing this difference as a conflict and start seeing it as two halves of a whole, the business will benefit greatly.

From a career perspective, you should also remember that Stan will probably replace his dad at some future date. Although you may be colleagues now, eventually he'll be the boss. An adversarial relationship could bring your career to a sudden end, so learning to collaborate would definitely be in your self-interest.

Q: One of my coworkers frequently emails me to share her observations about my emotional state. For example, she might say, "You're very quiet today. Are you alright?" or, "You seem agitated. If you need to vent, I'm here." This has been going on for almost five years.

I always respond that I'm fine and have no problems, so you would think she might quit bugging me. But no, she keeps right on sending these irritating messages. How can I put an end to this?

A: Even though your response to these unwanted queries has been minimal, it's apparently sufficient to reinforce the behavior. So if you want this annoyingly compassionate colleague to quit cataloguing your emotions, you must stop replying to her messages. If you consistently ignore them, eventually they will cease.

The other alternative, of course, is to directly tell her that you dislike receiving repeated inquiries about your well-being. But since she is obviously a sensitive soul, that would only hurt her feelings and create workplace discord. If she intends these messages to be friendly and caring, learning that they seem nosy and intrusive could come as quite a shock.

Despite oil bust, Texas prepares more students for oil jobs

HOUSTON (AP)—The oil industry is mired in its latest bust, with thousands of jobs evaporating like flares flaming out over natural gas wells. But in Texas, education officials are preparing more young people for the oil patch, showing the state's unshakeable commitment to the energy sector despite the employment uncertainties.

The Houston school district is planning to expand its Energy Institute High School to around 1,000 students by 2017 and inaugurate a new 110,000 square-foot, \$37 million facility. The three-year-old institute is the nation's only high school fully specializing in oil and energy careers.

In the oil-rich Permian Basin, two Midland high schools have begun "petroleum academies." And state officials have approved vocational classes in oil production, authorizing all schools districts across Texas to teach them.

"We are in this downturn, but as a society we have a responsibility to not let that affect our workforce and to keep ahead of the game," said Energy Institute principal Lori Lambropoulos.

Other oil and gas states, including North Dakota, Louisiana and Wyoming, offer technical training for high school students interested in the oil industry, but Texas' program is more extensive, despite ques-

tions about whether there will be jobs in the near future for its graduates.

Layoffs began last year when crude prices plummeted from over \$100 a barrel to about \$45 now. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, oil and gas extraction jobs fell from 201,500 nationwide in October 2014 to around 187,000 this past October. In Texas alone, the economic sector including energy jobs contracted by an estimated 28,000 through a year-long period ending in September.

"Fourteen months ago it was fracking forever," said Robert Gilmer, head of the University of Houston's Institute for Regional Forecasting. "And now we're here."

But the booms, like the last six-year-long one, provide rich paydays when they happen. And many in Texas insist things will rebound, although no one knows when. It took nearly two decades for oil prices to fully recover from the bust in the 1980s.

Energy Institute High School students choose between focusing on geosciences, offshore technology or alternative energy, but can also tackle blue-collar areas like welding, vital to the oilfield, or piloting remotely operated underwater vehicles used in offshore exploration.

Trista Litong, a 16-year-old sophomore, said she's not

sweating falling oil prices because she believes her training will be useful regardless.

"The skills you learn here, how to talk to people, how to present in front of an audience and working in groups, it really helps you in the future," said Litong, who wakes up at 4:55 a.m. and braves a 90-minute bus ride to reach Energy Institute's temporary campus in a scruffy section of downtown Houston.

A record 1,200 students applied for about 250 Energy Institute slots last fall. Oil industry donations have helped supplement public funding for the school's costs, which are high because of the technology and teacher training required.

There are no sports teams, so the hallways are lined with artwork featuring pump jacks and oil platforms. Industry veterans appear as guest lecturers and the school's advisory board includes executives from firms like Exxon-Mobile and Shell.

In Midland, home to more than half a dozen top energy firms, companies have helped the school district create the new petroleum academies for about 110 students. Classes address the basics of drilling, production and pipeline maintenance, and students work toward safety certifications. They also take traditional high school courses.

Nation

A boycott's birth: How the Missouri race protests began

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—On the day he met with black players for the University of Missouri's football team, graduate student Jonathan Butler hadn't eaten for six days.

The players wanted to know why. Butler told them: The school's president, Tim Wolfe, had repeatedly ignored concerns of black students. He'd rather starve than attend a school with a leader who condoned racism.

Surprised and angry, the players decided to launch a protest of their own. They wouldn't practice or play until Wolfe resigned or was removed. They snapped a picture and tweeted it: Thirty black men standing with another too frail to stand on his own.

"They were literally holding me up," Butler said.

The image did in 48 hours what student activists hadn't been able to all semester and what black students before them hadn't been able to do for decades. It put a national spotlight on black students' experience on mainly white campuses and



set off protests around the country. It was a feat pulled off by two groups of students whose paths, before that week, had rarely crossed.

The roots of the protest began decades ago, when the University of Missouri, founded

in 1839, enrolled its first black student in 1950. The first black varsity athlete enrolled in 1956.

Those who came behind them have been fighting ever since for an equal environment. The current activist group, Concerned Student 1950, is named

for that first student. Today, about 7 percent of the 35,000 students at the state's flagship school are black. Revenue-generating teams are nearly 63 percent black men.

Butler first saw and experienced racial tension at Mizzou

in this Nov. 9, 2015, file photo, a member of the black student protest group Concerned Student 1950 gestures while addressing a crowd following the announcement that University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe would resign, at the university in Columbia, Mo.

as an undergraduate. In 2008, he said someone wrote the N-word on his dorm door. In 2010, white students scattered cotton balls onto the grounds of the black culture center.

"Things were continuing to be swept under the rug ... to the point where there's so much under there, you trip over it," Butler said.

When protests erupted in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, last year after the death of Michael Brown, Missouri students got involved to protest disparate treatment of minority communities by police. Butler returned to campus for his final year looking for a way to channel his feelings into action.

Over the next several weeks, Butler said the group tried reaching out to administration officials, recounting to them their experiences as black students, sharing books, YouTube videos and articles about white privilege.

No response. When a homecoming protest and a meeting with Wolfe didn't satisfy the group, Butler became con-

vinced a hunger strike was his only choice. He consulted a doctor, a pastor.

Did he think he might die? "I was prepared to do so," he said.

He made his protest public, setting up a tent on The Quad in the heart of campus.

Mizzou sophomore wide receiver J'Mon Moore was driving on campus when he passed near The Quad.

Moore parked his car and began to investigate. He found his way to Butler, who had only seen Moore before playing football on television.

"I just saw someone in need and wanted to help," Moore said.

When he got home, Moore told his roommate, defensive back Anthony Sherrills, about the strike. They reached out to sophomore defensive lineman Charles Harris and senior co-captain Ian Simon.

Two days passed, and they contacted the activists to meet.

For about an hour, the players and the protesters talked. Poole explained despite also being black, the athletes' college experience was vastly different from that of the average black student.

"Essentially, they've been taken away from the community," said Ayanna Poole, a senior and another member of the activist group. "We used that time to tell them about our experience as students, not as student-athletes."

Police: Shooting at New Orleans playground wounds 16

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Hundreds of people were gathered at a New Orleans playground for a block party and music video shoot when two groups in the crowd opened fire on each other, wounding 16 people in the shocking Sunday evening violence, police said.

Police were on their way to break up a big crowd at Bunny Friend Playground when gunfire erupted at the park in the city's 9th Ward, the police said in a statement Sunday.

Police said 10 people were taken to the hospital in ambulances while another six were taken in private vehicles. Photos of the scene showed emergency

workers wheeling some of the wounded to ambulances on gurneys while other people who appeared to be in pain lay on the ground.

Joseph Jordan was inside a house across the street from the park with his friend, who gave her first name as Raven, when they heard gunshots. Later someone called Raven and told her that her niece had been shot. The two rushed to the hospital to check on the 14-year-old, who had been shot three times in the leg.

Speaking of the hospital, Jordan said: "It's still crowded back there."

Outside University Medical Center, Kawandra Hayney said

she had been driving about two or three blocks from the playground with her daughter when people ran by shooting. Her 14-year-old daughter was hit once in the knee and five times in her backside. Hayney pulled her daughter out of the truck and under it to hide, then into a nearby ditch.

"I saw the police coming, and I ran over to them," she said. She said she later counted seven bullet holes in her truck.

Investigators don't know what started the shooting, police spokesman Tyler Gamble said. He said all the victims are listed in stable condition. He said the victims suffered either direct

gunshot wounds or were grazed by bullets.

Large stadium lights lit up the park Sunday night as police continued to work the crime scene. Witnesses told police that the gunmen ran off after the shooting was over.

As many as 500 people could have been in the park when the shooting happened, said police chief Michael Harrison. Police earlier said the people were there for an impromptu music video but Gamble later told reporters that while a video was being filmed, the event was a primarily a block party. Gamble said that neither the block party nor the music video had a permit.

After the snow, Midwest gets deep freeze

By RICK CALLAHAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A deep freeze set in across the Midwest on Sunday with low temperatures forecast in the single digits and a few below zero, turning the season's first major snow into ice that made some roads treacherous to travel.

Temperatures plunged behind a cold front that brought snow across much of the region Friday and Saturday. The National Weather Service forecast 20 degrees or lower across six states from North Dakota to Illinois.

The weather service reported temperatures in the single- and low double-digits Sunday in northern Illinois, including Chicago, where residents were digging out of more than 11 inches of snow—the highest November total in 120 years in the city.

More than 130 flights were cancelled Sunday into and out of the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, according to flight-tracking website FlightAware.com.

In Minneapolis, dozens of people huddled around fires to stay warm at an encampment outside a police station to protest the fatal shooting of a black

man by officers there last week. Temperatures hit a low of 17 degrees overnight, and light snow was expected to move in by Sunday evening.

The first snowfall of the season also brought amounts ranging from a few inches to 20 inches of snow from South Dakota through Michigan earlier in the weekend.

In the southern Wisconsin town of Janesville, between 10 and 20 inches of snow had fallen by late Saturday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

Southside True Value Hardware manager Matt Krienke said business had been good in the days leading up to the storm in the Janesville, but that it had become "very, very, very, very slick."

"People who don't need to drive don't need to be out," he said.

Slick driving conditions were reported across the region. In western Michigan, two people were injured in a 15-car pileup late Saturday along Interstate 196 following heavy snow in the area. Local police said one woman was struck by a vehicle after getting out of her vehicle.

ACROSS THE NATION

Utilities see potential in drones to inspect lines, towers

BLENHEIM, N.Y. (AP)—U.S. utilities see great potential in the use of remote-controlled drones to do the often-dangerous work of inspecting power lines and transmission towers but strict regulations have so far slowed adoption of the technology. The remote-controlled devices make the work of linemen safer, more efficient and less expensive, according to the Electric Power Research Institute, which last month put on a three-day workshop to help nearly a dozen utilities choose the best machines for the job. Miniature helicopter-like drones, some equipped with cameras and other sensors, conducted demonstration inspections of transmission lines at a hydroelectric

plant in the Catskill Mountains. "We want to start using drones next spring when the inspection season begins," said Alan Ettlinger, research and technology director for the New York Power Authority, who attended the workshop.

New \$710-a-day drug saves lives but strains state budgets

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—A newly approved drug is being hailed as a major advance in treatment of cystic fibrosis, a life-threatening genetic disease that clogs the lungs with mucus and forces patients to struggle to breathe. But it comes with a punishing price tag—about \$710 per patient per day. The treatment takes a bite out of Medicaid programs that are already facing big budget prob-

lems, and a small state like Vermont will be on the hook next year for \$3.6 million for a drug expected to treat only 40 people. Orkambi—taken as two pills, twice daily—is a combination of two cystic fibrosis drugs that won approval from the Food and Drug Administration on July 2. Federal law requires Medicaid programs to cover FDA-approved drugs, and the U.S. government picks up more than half the tab. But what's left over will make up nearly 7 percent of Vermont's estimated \$54 million Medicaid budget deficit next fiscal year.

Missing red panda found safe after escaping California zoo

EUREKA, Calif. (AP)—A red panda that went missing three

days ago from a zoo on California's far north coast has been safely located and returned to her home in Eureka. The Eureka Times Standard reports Sunday that the tiny creature named Masala was found safe and sound Saturday night and is back at the Sequoia Park Zoo. Zoo manager Gretchen Ziegler says a citizen saw the 1-year-old red panda walking around a half-mile from the zoo's entrance. Ziegler says that the unidentified citizen herded Masala up a small fruit tree and kept an eye on the furry creature until zoo staff arrived. The panda was lured down the 10 foot tall tree with food and caught. Ziegler says the furry creature is eating and drinking normally in a quarantine area. Veterinarians will check up on her Monday.

Asia

Obama warns against overreaction to Islamic State attacks

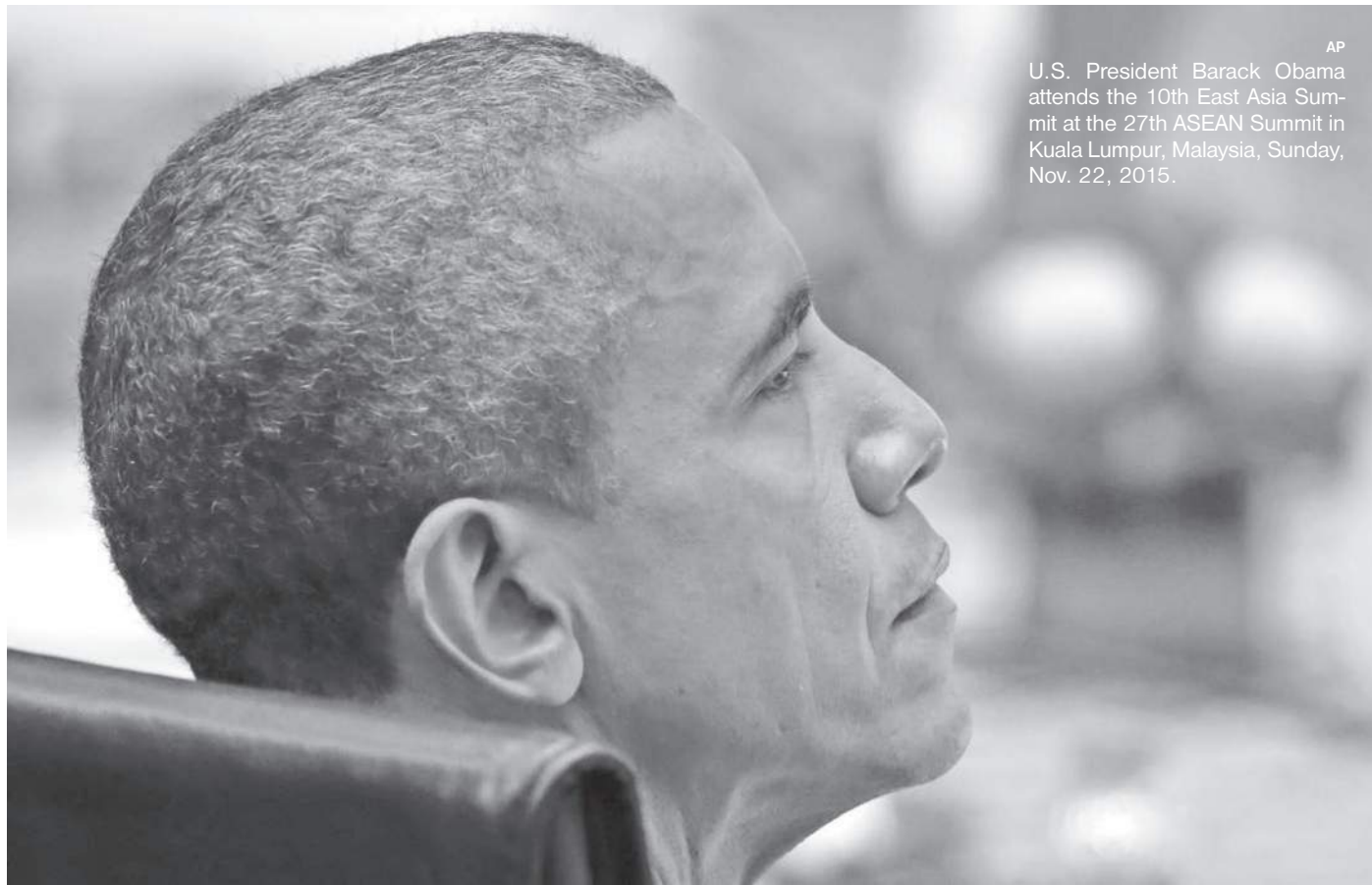
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Trying to reassure a nation on edge, President Barack Obama said Sunday the Islamic State group “cannot strike a mortal blow” against the U.S., and he warned that overreacting to the Paris attacks would play into extremists’ hands. “We will destroy this terrorist organization,” he vowed.

Ending a trip to Asia, Obama implored Americans not to let the specter of terror cause them to compromise their values or change the way they live.

“We do not succumb to fear,” he said. “The most powerful tool we have to fight ISIL is to say that we’re not afraid, to not elevate them, to somehow buy into their fantasy that they’re doing something important,” Obama said, using an acronym for the terrorist organization.

Since IS militants killed 130 in France nine days ago, Obama’s strategy has come under repeated questioning. He dismissed the group’s global prowess of IS and said, “They’re a bunch of killers with good social media.”

Rejecting the notion of an existential threat, Obama said IS “can’t beat us on the battlefield,



AP
U.S. President Barack Obama attends the 10th East Asia Summit at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015.

so they try to terrorize us into being afraid.”

“I think it is absolutely vital for every country, every leader, to send a signal that the viciousness of a handful of killers does

not stop the world from doing vital business,” Obama said. The president and world leaders are set to gather in Paris next week for long-scheduled climate talks. The White House

has insisted there will be no change in plans.

Obama also said there was an “increasing awareness” by Russian President Vladimir Putin that IS is Moscow’s grav-

est threat in the Middle East. IS claimed responsibility for downing a Russian passenger jet in Egypt last month with 224 on board.

Long before that, Obama had urged Putin to use Russia’s air campaign in Syria to target IS, not U.S.-backed rebel groups fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad, a Moscow ally. U.S. officials have said Russia

has started focusing some airstrikes against IS. Obama said it was not clear whether Putin could work effectively with the U.S.-led coalition.

Putin “needs to go after the people who killed Russia’s citizens,” Obama said. The two met last week during an economic summit in Turkey.

Nearly five years of fighting between Assad and Syrian rebels has created a vacuum that allowed IS to thrive in both Syria and Iraq. More recently, the militant group has started exporting violence outside its stronghold, radiating fears across the West. U.S. officials have said IS aspires to attack America but they have played down any specific threat.

As Obama spoke in the Malaysian capital, other Western leaders were stepping up their rhetoric against IS, while the European diplomatic hub of Brussels remained under the highest threat level for the second day in a row. French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the West would “annihilate Islamic State worldwide.”

After Obama’s return to Washington early Monday, he will prepare for a White House meeting with French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday, where the leaders will discuss bolstering the international coalition fighting IS. Hollande then goes to Russia for similar talks with Putin.

China tells others don’t ‘stir up trouble’ in S. China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—China on Sunday told other countries not to “deliberately stir up trouble” in the disputed South China Sea, while insisting it has no intention of militarizing the strategically vital area even though it has increased construction activities there.

Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin reiterated China’s position that its construction of artificial islands in the sea was designed to “provide public service” to the region by helping ships and fishermen and disaster relief efforts. This also includes military facilities to protect the islands and

reefs, which are located far from mainland China, he said.

Since 2013, China has accelerated the creation of new outposts by piling sand atop reefs and atolls, and then adding buildings, ports and airstrips big enough to handle bombers and fighter jets—activities seen as an attempt to change the territorial status quo by changing the geography.

“One should never link the military facilities with efforts to militarize the South China Sea,” Liu said. “This is a false argument. It is a consistent Chinese position to firmly oppose the militarization of the South China Sea.”

Other countries “should not deliberately stir up trouble but contribute to the peace and stability of the region,” he said.

Although Liu’s statement broke no new ground—China has said this in various ways before—the setting for his remarks was significant: an Asian summit also attended by President Barack Obama, whose administration has backed the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries who have longstanding disputes with China in the South China Sea.

Liu’s comments also serve to send a notice to China’s ri-

vals in the region that it will not back down from its position on the resource-rich sea, irrespective of pressure from the United States. While it opposes any U.S. military incursion, China sees its own military presence there as justifiable.

Liu is at the summit accompanying Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

At a separate news conference, Obama said the issue was a “key topic” at the summit of 18 countries that included China, as well as at a separate summit he had with leaders of 10 Southeast Asian countries.

Australia says checks on Syrian refugees could take a year

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Australian government remained committed to resettling 12,000 Syrian refugees, but security checks could take more than a year, officials said Monday.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced in September that the 12,000 refugees would be resettled from Middle Eastern refugee camps as quickly as possible. Abbott was replaced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull less than a week later. The first families began arriving in Australia this month.

Government lawmaker Cory Bernardi said Monday that Cabinet should rethink that commitment in light of the threat militants could pose as refugees in Australia. He said the recent coordinated attacks in Paris had highlighted the dangers.

But Cabinet ministers including Treasurer Scott Morrison and Counterterrorism Minister Michael Keenan stood by the decision.

“These would have to be—arguably—the most screened group of people you could think of,” Morrison told Sydney radio 2GB.

“Taking 12,000 people from

Syria was the right thing to do several months ago and it’s still the right thing to do today,” Keenan told reporters.

Peter Shergold, coordinator-general for refugee resettlement in New South Wales, Australia’s most populous state, said the careful screening would hold up the resettlement process.

“I’m working on the basis that the vast majority will come next year and it will probably be over 12 or 18 months, not six months,” Shergold told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Debate over the Syrian refugees was rekindled as an opinion poll showed Monday that 44 percent of respondents thought Australia should take fewer than 12,000 refugees from Syria. Another 27 percent said 12,000 was about right and 22 percent said Australia should accept a larger number.

The poll by Sydney-based market researcher Newspoll and published in The Australian newspaper was based on a weekend survey of 1,573 voters nationwide. It had a 3 percentage point margin of error.

The Syrian refugee intake is on top of Australia’s usual annual intake of 13,750 refugees from around the world.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Blast at Japan’s controversial Yasukuni shrine, no injuries

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese media are reporting an explosion Monday in a public restroom at Tokyo’s Yasukuni shrine, which honors Japan’s war dead, including those executed as war criminals. No one was injured. Yasukuni has been the target of criticism from Japan’s neighbors, including China and South Korea, which suffered World War II atrocities and aggression. Fire fighters received a call to put out a small fire Monday morning that damaged the ceiling and walls of the restroom, said an official at the Tokyo Fire Department who spoke on condition of anonymity. But the fire was out by the time they arrived. He declined to elaborate. It was unclear what caused the explosion. TBS TV news said police suspect foul play, and batteries and wirings that may be part of an explosive device were found. Police will be reviewing footage on security cameras for clues on who might be behind the explosion, TBS said.

Searchers pull bodies from rubble after Myanmar landslide

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Soldiers, police and volunteers pulled body after body from the rubble in northern Myanmar on Monday, as the death toll from a landslide near several jade mines reached at least 113, a local official said, with more than

100 others missing. The collapse early Saturday in Kachin state’s mining community of Hpakant was the worst-such disaster in recent memory. The corpses were taken to a nearby morgue, where friends and relatives broke down as they identified the victims. Some were buried at a local cemetery and others were cremated. But there were stacks of unidentified bodies wrapped in blue plastic tarps. Kachin is home to some of the world’s highest-quality jade, and the industry generated an estimated \$31 billion last year, with most of the wealth going to individuals and companies tied to Myanmar’s former military rulers, according to Global Witness, a group that investigates misuse of resource revenues.

5.9 magnitude earthquake hits NE Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. Geological Survey is reporting that a magnitude 5.9 earthquake has hit northeastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan and Tajikistan. There were no immediate reports of casualties. U.S.G.S. said the quake struck at 2:16 a.m. local time Monday with its epicenter located 14 miles (21 kilometers) south-southwest of the town of Ashkasham in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, 186 kilometers (300 kilometers) northeast of Kabul. Its depth was measured at 57.4 miles (92.4 kilometers). The quake was felt across northern Afghanistan, northern Pakistan and in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

World

Belgium police arrest 16, Paris fugitive still at large

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgian prosecutors announced early Monday that police had detained 16 people in 22 raids but that Paris fugitive Salah Abdeslam was not among them. Despite the raids, authorities maintained their highest terror alert in the capital for a third straight day.

Federal prosecutor Eric Van Der Syt said 19 raids were carried out in Molenbeek and other boroughs of Brussels and three raids were carried out in other cities.

“We have to stress that no firearms or explosives were discovered ... during the raids,” Van Der Syt said. “Certain elements in the investigation made Sunday’s intervention necessary. The investigation will in any case be relentlessly continued.”

One of those detained was injured when a car he was in tried to ram police during an attempted getaway, Van Der Syt said.

The raids capped a tense day with hundreds of troops patrolling and authorities hunting for one or more suspected militants, the Belgian government chose

AP
Belgium’s Interior Minister Jan Jambon checks his phone as he leaves during media briefing after a National Security Council meeting in Brussels on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015.



Sunday to keep the capital on the highest state of alert into the start of the workweek to prevent a Paris-style attack.

Citing a “serious and imminent” threat, Prime Minister Charles Michel announced that schools and universities in Brussels will be closed Monday, with the subway remaining shut down, preventing a return

to normal in the city that is also home to the European Union’s main institutions.

“We fear an attack like in Paris, with several individuals, perhaps in several places,” Michel said after chairing a meeting of Belgium’s National Security Council.

While Brussels was kept on the highest of four alert levels,

the rest of the country remains on a Level 3 alert, meaning an attack is “possible and likely

“Nobody is pleased with such a situation. Neither are we. But we have to take our responsibility,” Michel said.

Western leaders stepped up the rhetoric against the Islamic State group, which has claimed responsibility for the attacks

Horror, panic, heroism at Bataclan—nexus of Paris attacks

PARIS (AP)—The vibe in the Bataclan concert hall was hot, steamy and electric as the California rock band Eagles of Death Metal jammed away a half-hour into a set. Revelers slam-danced to the hard rock, and bodies glistened with sweat. Suddenly, the drum beats gave way to a different kind of rattle-tat-tat, and flashing stage lights met with glints from automatic rifle barrels.

In the spasm of chaos, some revelers thought the lights and sounds were part of the show. Then the lead singer fled, bodies began to fall—and shouts of partying turned

to screams of horror.

It was the beginning of the worst carnage of the Paris attacks that killed 130 people, injured over 300, and caused the French president to declare his nation at war with Islamic State extremists. The legendary music venue in a shabby-chic corner of Paris turned into a chamber of death that one policeman described as “Dante’s Inferno,” as three men laden with explosives and toting Kalashnikovs fired indiscriminately at revelers, turning the dance floor into a sea of blood and body parts.

“I crawled on the ground as low as possible without get-

ting up,” said Arthur, one of the Bataclan fans, who didn’t give his last name. “I scrambled for the emergency exit on the left. We all crawled. Others tried to walk out and stepped on an arm or two.”

Partiers poured like bees from a hive from the emergency exit into a backstage alley. The escape was hampered by bodies of dead and injured clogging the exit. Outside people on higher floors of the concert hall dangled desperately from windows, facing the choice of gunfire from the attackers or a bone-shattering drop to the ground.

The attackers turned up at

the Bataclan around 9:40 p.m. in a black Volkswagen Polo, after two other extremist teams had launched suicide bombing attacks on the Stade de France soccer stadium and a string of drive-by shootings at cafes and restaurants. Getting out, they unleashed a burst of automatic gunfire at two young men on rental bikes who happened to be cycling by. The men crumpled to the ground, shot at point-blank range.

“To see it with my own eyes, it was like being in a horror film,” said witness Ludovic Mintchov. “In 10 years, I won’t forget it.”

Mali hotel attack aimed at peace talks, say separatists

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The assault on a luxury hotel in Mali’s capital that killed 19 people was a clear attempt to derail a fragile peace process meant to stabilize the country’s volatile north, a representative of northern separatist groups said Sunday.

Halting peace negotiations have been dragging on between the central government and northern separatist groups for more than two years in an effort to end the disputes that turned large sections of the country into a haven for radical Islamic militants.

The talks have shown some promise in recent months. The Radisson Blu hotel attacked by two gunmen on Friday was preparing to host a meeting on implementing the latest accords.

“The attack was targeting

the peace agreement,” said Sidi Brahim Ould Sidati, a representative of the Coordination of Azawad Movements, known by its French acronym CMA. The CMA is a coalition of groups seeking autonomy in northern Mali and includes ethnic Arabs and Tuaregs.

“The jihadis are in different groups but their goal is the same, and that’s to hinder implementation of the peace accord,” Sidati said.

It was the secular separatist groups that first wrested northern Mali from the government in 2012, using weapons looted from arsenals in neighboring Libya, but they were soon overtaken by al-Qaida-allied radicals.

In 2013, the French pushed the Islamic extremists out of cities and towns though they

continue to carry out attacks on U.N. peacekeepers.

The peace talks between the government and the separatists excluded the radicals, who have spoken out against the negotiations, accusing participants of betraying the population’s desire for independence.

The hotel attack was claimed by the Al-Mourabitoun (The Sentinels) radical group which has links to al-Qaida. The group’s statement said attacks would continue until the government ended its “aggression against our people in the north and the center of Mali.”

Senegalese President Macky Sall, current chairman of the West African ECOWAS bloc, visited Bamako on Sunday and went to the Radisson with Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. At a joint press confer-

ence early Sunday evening, Sall said a regional meeting to discuss security concerns would be convened in the coming days, though he provided no details.

Friday’s attack began at around 7 a.m., when two gunmen armed with assault rifles and explosives attacked just as guards who had worked the night shift were preparing to hand over to a new team.

The two young gunmen quickly overpowered the guards and moved into the hotel as terrified guests scrambled out of the dining room where they were having breakfast and tried to hide in the kitchen. They were armed with two Kalashnikov assault rifles, explosives and “a large amount of ammunition,” Maj. Modibo Nama Traore, a commander with the Malian army, said Sunday.

in Paris that killed 130 people and wounded hundreds more; the suicide bombings in Beirut that killed 43 people and injured more than 200; and the downing of the Russian jetliner carrying 224 people in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. All happened within the past month.

“We will not accept the idea that terrorist assaults on restaurants and theaters and hotels are the new normal, or that we are powerless to stop them,” President Barack Obama said in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said IS must be destroyed at all costs. “We must annihilate Islamic State worldwide ... and we must destroy Islamic State on its own territory,” Le Drian said. “That’s the only possible direction.”

The decision to put Brussels on the highest alert came early Saturday as authorities frantically searched for Abdeslam, who is believed to have played a key role in the Nov. 13 attacks in France. He is known to have crossed into Belgium the day after the attacks.

Interior Minister Jan Jambon warned that the threat wouldn’t necessarily disappear if Abdeslam was found, because they are looking for several people in connection with a possible planned attack in Brussels.

“The terror threat is wider than just that person,” Jambon said. “We are looking at several things. That is why we are making the big show of power and following

everything up by the minute. It’s of no use to hide this.”

Several of the Paris attackers had lived in Brussels, including Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the plot’s orchestrator who was killed Wednesday in a standoff with French police.

Abdeslam is known to have crossed into Belgium on Nov. 14. His brother, Mohamed Abdeslam, went on Belgian TV and urged him to surrender, saying he would rather see him “in prison than in a cemetery.”

Authorities in Turkey said Saturday that a 26-year-old Belgian citizen suspected of being linked to Islamic extremists and possibly to the Paris attacks had been detained in the coastal city of Antalya.

France has intensified its aerial bombing in Syria and Le Drian said the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, which has been sent to the Mediterranean to help combat IS militants in Syria, will be “operational” from Monday and “ready to act.”

Also Monday, French President Francois Hollande is scheduled to meet in Paris with British Prime Minister David Cameron and will travel to Washington and Moscow later in the week to push for a stronger international coalition against IS. Cameron is expected to outline his plan for combating the militants as he seeks parliamentary approval to join France, the U.S. and Russia in striking the group’s strongholds in Syria.

Migrants barred from crossing into Macedonia hold protest

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—Migrants barred from crossing the Greece-Macedonia border held a fourth day of protests Sunday, as Macedonia’s president criticized the European Union over the refugee crisis for a lack of financial support and data sharing.

The influx of migrants into Macedonia has heightened tensions in the country, President Gjorgje Ivanov said.

“The risk of possible conflict between refugees and migrants, the migrants and police and army, and between migrants and local people is rated as high,” Ivanov told reporters Sunday after meeting with visiting European Council president Donald Tusk in Macedonia’s capital, Skopje.

Several European countries, including EU members Slovenia and Croatia and non-members Serbia and Macedonia, have declared they will only allow “war-zone refugees” from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria to transit through their countries on their way to central and northern Europe.

This policy has left many others stranded in the Greek border town for four days, demanding to be let in and chanting slogans such as “Freedom!” and “We are not terrorists.”

On Sunday, an Iranian man threatened to cut his wrists with a razor if not allowed into Macedonia. Police intervened to disarm him, but, in the scuffle, he cut his face.

The number of migrants being barred from entering Macedonia has fallen significantly Sunday, from more than 2,000 to around 1,300 in the early evening. Many of them took buses and taxis to Athens and Thessaloniki. Greek police believe they may be trying to find other routes, including with the help of smugglers.

Ivanov also said that Macedonia has the capacity to shelter about 2,000 people in its temporary transit centers.

“Any increase in these numbers will increase permanent and direct threats and risks for the national security of Macedonia,” he added.

Overdrive

2015 Mercedes-Benz S63 Coupe offers excellent excess

By **TERRY BOX**
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Give me a sunny 30-room villa in the Hollywood hills filled with perfect people who can't remember my name.

"I think it's Tommy or Tiny or something, but he parties like Gatsby."

Out back, I want a marble-lined Pacific-blue pool, flanked by gushing tequila fountains—with a couple of shiny personal assistants to occasionally pluck me and my pretty guests from the pool.

Or you could just let me keep the 2015 Mercedes-Benz S63 AMG Coupe I had recently and declare me the king of wretched excess.

It may be all I need. As I discovered, the world sort of steps aside when you're plying its cobbled streets in a dazzling tank of a coupe awash in horsepower and white leather.

Actually, lots of high-end brands offer cars far more expensive than the \$172,000 S63. But few so capably hit all the right high-end chords: big, fast, flashy and beautifully brazen.

The new S-class Coupe succeeds the finely crafted CL Coupe, blowing by it with even more large-scale style and slinkiness.

Every surface of the dark blue S63 I had seemed to ooze opulence.

Up front, a large, blunt, satin-finish grille featured a giant Mercedes-Benz star in its center—ready to leave its three-point imprint on slow-moving Sentras and Civics if necessary.

The car's long, broad hood extended like a banquet table to its raked-back windshield,



The 2015 Mercedes-Benz S63 Coupe turns into corners with far more aggression and grace than any cruiser-size vehicle should possess, leaning slightly but clinging to curves with formidable all-wheel-drive grip.

while scowling twin-projector headlamps anchored muscular front fenders.

Though kind of thick, the S63's sides wore prominent character lines up high and down low above the rocker panels that gave them a chiseled look, aided by slightly flared wheel openings.

But the big coupe's best element might be its low, sloping top, which looks a bit like a rakish beret on a pin-striped banker's head.

As a high-performance AMG model, the big coupe crouched on 20-inch alloy wheels wrapped with massive 255/40 tires up front and 285/35s in back.

And did I mention that it's a true two-door hardtop with no B-pillar between the front

and rear side windows, making it as open and inviting as a '57 Chevy?

Like all S63 models in the U.S., the car sported all-wheel drive, theoretically meaning

577 horsepower and—more important—664 pound-feet of torque.

If you drive it like an adult and stay under 3,000 rpm, you'll wonder where all that power hides. In fact, the S63 is rated at a not-terrible 15 miles per gallon in town and 23 on the highway.

DECEPTIVE THROTTLE

The car has one of those long-travel accelerator pedals and feels a bit soft and lazy at low speeds, probably suffering from a touch of turbo lag.

But push deeply on that pedal. When the tach swings past 3,000, all hell in a tuxedo breaks loose with a muted roar and a huge, slightly startling leap forward.

Suddenly, the S63 is in Au-

tobahn mode, ripping to 60 in an astounding 3.7 seconds, according to Car and Driver, its seven-speed automatic clicking off blazing bang-bang shifts like a Formula 1 racer.

It sure makes pulling into the fast lane on the expressway an interesting experience.

Although it's as big as some work trucks, the S63 has an unusual steel-aluminum body that helps keep its weight to a fairly reasonable 4,700 pounds.

As a result, the big coupe turns into corners with far more aggression and grace than any cruiser-size vehicle should possess, leaning slightly but clinging to curves with formidable all-wheel-drive grip.

In sport mode, the Benz rides firmly but remains compliant enough that small, well-dressed passengers in back could sip champagne without sloshing it.

Likewise, the steering felt quick and a little on the light side, as if it was bolted to something smaller.

LOOKING GOOD INSIDE

Fortunately, life also looks pretty good from inside the S63, though I found more irritations there than the outside.

Mine was stitched mostly in off-white Nappa leather embellished by off-white carpeting and headliner.

It felt like one of Sam Baris' hallowed old California customs when I slid behind the Benz's wheel.

A sleek upper dashboard in dark brown leather curved around the base of the car's windshield, shading the instrument panel and display screen. It dropped onto a curved middle dash in off-white, which

matched the leather wrapped around the steering wheel.

Moreover, the door panels and padded armrests were covered in off-white leather. Like many German luxury cars these days, the S63 had no center stack, relying instead on a mouse and dial on the console for many of its controls.

Consequently, every time I tried to rest my elbow on the console, I managed to knock the stereo off Outlaw Country and probably sent an email to Hungary or somewhere in the process.

Meanwhile, the gorgeous off-white seats squeeze you—literally.

The wraparound seats with their form-fitting bolsters squeeze the driver on one side or the other depending on the curve, presumably to provide support in serious corners.

Initially, I thought I might just be experiencing a minor stroke. After a while, though, it got pretty irritating.

Mercedes-Benz loves electronics, and the S63 bristled with features like active cruise control that will slow the car if needed, lane assist, steering assist and braking assist. For all I know, it may be able to toast waffles as well.

Most adults over 5-foot-6 will struggle to get comfortable in the tight back seat, which struck me as odd given the car's size.

But that's a minor flaw in what may be one of the best personal luxury coupes on the planet—a car that offers styling, performance and features usually found in super-luxury vehicles costing \$100,000 more.

Maybe all the good stuff really is trickling down.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Mercedes-Benz S63 AMG 4Matic Coupe

Type of vehicle: All-wheel-drive, four-passenger luxury coupe

Price as tested: \$171,950

Fuel economy: 15 miles per gallon city, 23 highway

Weight: 4,744 pounds

Engine: Turbocharged, direct-injected 5.5-liter V-8 with 577 horsepower and 664 pound-feet of torque

Transmission: Seven-speed automatic

Performance: 0 to 60 mph in 3.7 seconds

you could zip downtown even on an icy day or romp around sand dunes in the Sahara.

I'm not sure I would recommend that, though. Powered by a turbocharged 5.5-liter V-8, the S63 can summon

MOTORING Q&A

By **PAUL BRAND**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have a 2011 Subaru Outback with the 2.5-liter engine. I want to know if it is harmful to downshift often without using the brakes. Recently, I've been hearing a whining that I believe is coming from the transmission. I had the 60,000-mile service done, including replacing the transmission oil. I don't remember hearing the noise before the 60,000-mile service.

A: First, I assume you are describing downshifting a manual transmission, not an automatic. Many of today's manual gearboxes are smaller and utilize smaller internal bearings. This isn't a bad thing, of course, but I've heard from a number of transmission shop owners that they see more bearing issues from these transmissions now than in the past. They, and I, recommend using the brakes to slow the vehicle rather than downshifting.

But why spoil the fun of driving a manual gearbox? Downshifting before a corner while still braking—the lost art of “heel and toe” and “double clutch” downshifting—isn't harmful and adds to the challenge of driving. Which in-

OK to downshift without braking?

creases situational awareness, reduces distraction and hopefully reduces “driver error” crashes.

The bottom line is this; brakes are far more efficient and far less expensive to replace than clutches and transmissions. While there's no real harm in downshifting to benefit from engine braking on occasion, such as a long downhill grade, you're better off using downshifts to prepare the vehicle for acceleration, not slowing.

It's also worth noting that manually downshifting an automatic transmission out of overdrive is often the only way to utilize engine braking due to the fact that in overdrive, the torque converter clutch and the overrun bearing/clutch in the transmission effectively disconnect the drivetrain from the engine in an effort to improve fuel economy when you are coasting.

Q: Where could I sell motor oil that I've been keeping since 1962? Some of them are straight weight—30W, 10W, etc. Can oil that was bought in the 1960s still be any good?

A: Fun question. Like you, I still have several

quart containers of Quaker State 30W and 50W from the 1970s. We used the 50W in race car engines and the 30W in manual transmissions.

Notice I said “containers,” not cans. These are cardboard containers with metal tops and bottoms and show some staining on the cardboard due to seepage over the decades. I'm sure the oil is still good and have used some of it over the years to top up my lawn mowers and other small engines. The oil is not suitable for any of today's motor vehicles because of its very early API service rating—likely SC ('67/earlier), SD ('71/earlier) or SE ('79/earlier). Today's engines require an API service rating of SN, introduced in 2010.

So, where to sell? I'd suggest eBay. There are a lot of collectors out there who'd be interested in your oil. And they likely will pay more than what you bought it for 40 to 50 years ago. I found listings for my old Quaker State oil on eBay for \$10 a quart.

Using them for my lawn equipment? What was I thinking?

Q: I store a 1987 Porsche from now through

April. How much pressure should I put in the tires to keep them from developing a flat spot?

A: You could put the vehicle on jack stands for the winter and not worry at all. Otherwise, inflate the tires so that they won't fall below the recommended driving pressure during winter storage. If you live in a really cold climate, remember that tire pressures will drop roughly 1 pound per square inch per 10-degree fall in temperature.

Regarding potential flat spots from storage, not to worry. The materials utilized in the construction of modern tires aren't particularly sensitive to permanent flat spots. You may feel a bit of lumpiness on your first drive next spring, but the tires will quickly round themselves out after a few miles.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

1D wins big at AMAs, Dion pays tribute to Paris victims

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

One Direction might have debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard charts behind Justin Bieber, but they won the top award at Sunday's American Music Awards.

"This is a testament to how incredible our fans are," Louis Tomlinson said onstage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

"We just want to thank everyone that's helped us in the last five years," Liam Payne added.

The band won the top award at last year's show—as a quintet with Zayn Malik. They also won favorite duo or group—pop/rock Sunday night.

Bieber, who won best collaboration with Diplo and Skrillex, closed the night with a medley of his hits, including "Sorry," "Where Are U Now" and "What Do You Mean." Purple laser lights beamed from the stage as the singer danced and sang for the loud audience. He ended it drenched after standing under a waterfall.

Billboard announced Sunday his new album, "Purpose," will debut at No. 1 on its charts Monday after selling 649,000 equivalent albums. It beat out One Direction's "Made In the A.M.," which sold 459,000



Niall Horan, from left, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne, and Harry Styles of One Direction accept the award for artist of the year at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, in Los Angeles. AP

equivalent albums.

Bieber's performance wasn't the only well-received one: Celine Dion paid tribute to the victims of the recent Paris attacks by singing Edith Piaf's "Hymne à L'Amour" in French as some audience members cried.

Jared Leto, who introduced

Dion, said his band 30 Seconds to Mars recently performed at the Bataclan, the Paris concert hall where 89 people were killed in the Nov. 13 attack.

Dion earned a rousing applause after her performance, which started with the Eiffel Tower projected behind her.

The Weeknd's performance was also a favorite, and he walked away with two awards, and presented the first one from Prince.

"Make some noise for Prince, ladies and gentlemen," the singer said after picking up favorite album—soul/R&B for "Beauty Behind the Madness."

Nicki Minaj was also a double winner, taking home favorite artist and album—rap/hip-hop. She encouraged her feverish fans to "find their voice."

"I want to just thank you, the fans, for allowing me to change and have a different voice every time I come back out (with a new album)," Minaj said. "And please find your voice and find your purpose before it's too late. Love you."

Other girls at the awards show encouraged their peers: Zendaya and Hailee Steinfeld danced excited as Selena Gomez performed onstage; Fifth Harmony

and Rebel Wilson sang as Demi Lovato was in strong form with "Confident"; and Gomez sang as Grande performed "Focus" in a shimmery number.

Meghan Trainor and Charlie Puth's performance got additional attention after the singers made out onstage after singing their song, "Marvin Gaye," which features the lyrics: "Let's Marvin Gaye and get it on."

"I'm still laughing at Charlie and Meghan smooching," Bryan said onstage after winning favorite male artist—country.

Bryan beat out Jason Aldean and Sam Hunt, who won new artist of the year.

Host Jennifer Lopez kicked off the AMAs in a dance routine that highlighted some of the year's biggest hits like "Where Are U Now," "Anaconda," "Uptown Funk!" and "Hotline Bling." She also impressively sang in almost a cappella form.

Taylor Swift, who is out of the country shooting a music video, was the top nominee with six. She won song of the year for "Blank Space," favorite album—pop/rock for "1989" and favorite artist—adult contemporary.

Swift lost favorite female artist—pop/rock to Grande, who was shocked when accepting the honor.

"I think I owe a lot of this to my nonna who made sure to remind me that she voted. She goes, 'Ariana, I went on the computer, I voted, so I think you'll win,'" Grande said in an Italian accent. The three-hour show, which aired on ABC, also included a clip from the upcoming "Star Wars" film. Performers included Coldplay, Gwen Stefani, Alanis Morissette, 5 Seconds of Summer and Carrie Underwood, who won favorite female artist—country.

Hollywood studio pays off 'Barefoot Bandit's' restitution

SEATTLE (AP)—A Hollywood studio has paid more than \$1 million to settle the "Barefoot Bandit's" court-ordered restitution in exchange for the rights to his story.

The studio, 20th Century Fox, wrote a check to the U.S. Marshal's office earlier this month. It was the final payment toward Colton Harris-Moore's restitution, The Seattle Times reported.

The "Barefoot Bandit's" life on the run is now headed toward the big screen. The money mostly paid for three small airplanes he stole and crash landed and a boat he hijacked in the Bahamas while evading capture.

Harris-Moore was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in federal prison in 2012 for the theft of the airplanes, a boat and guns during a crime spree that began when he escaped from a Renton juvenile halfway house in 2008.

A book and a documentary of his exploits already have been published.

The Internet made Harris-Moore a cult hero, and at one time, he had nearly 50,000 followers on his Facebook page, where he would occasionally leave a post written on a stolen laptop.



In a Wednesday, May 8, 2013, file photo, Colton Harris-Moore, right, who is also known as the "Barefoot Bandit," sits in a Skagit County Superior Courtroom, in Mount Vernon, Wash., next to his attorney, John Henry Browne, left. AP

He eluded a massive manhunt, while police warned that he was dangerous.

Harris-Moore said he taught himself how to fly using flight manuals and a computer flight simulator, according to court documents.

While he was able to get the planes off the ground and pilot them, sometimes in bad weather, he had a tougher time with the landings. Harris-Moore crashed all three of them, acknowledging in defense documents that he very nearly died in a September 2009 crash of a stolen Cessna that went down

near Granite Falls in Snohomish County.

During his 2012 sentencing before U.S. District Judge Richard Jones, Harris-Moore said his dream of flying was the only thing that saved him from the nightmare of a childhood of neglect at the hands of an abusive alcoholic mother. He said some of the burglaries he committed were done to steal food so he wouldn't starve.

The federal sentence was set to run concurrently with a 7 1/2-year sentence imposed in a state court for a series of home and business burglaries.

Polish protest over 'pornographic' play leads to arrests

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Authorities have arrested 12 people who tried to block the entrance to a theater performance in Poland they deemed pornographic.

The case highlights the cultural conflict that is already brewing between secular Polish society and a new conservative pro-Catholic government that took power last Monday.

Scuffles broke out late Saturday in Wroclaw when members of a Catholic organization tried to stop theater-goers from seeing "Death and the Maiden." The Polski Theater in Wroclaw says on its website that the play explores the relationship be-

tween torturer and victim and is based on the "Princess Dramas: Death and the Maiden I-V" by the Nobel Prize-winning Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek.

That is a different work from the better known "Death and the Maiden" by Chilean writer Ariel Dorfman, which was made into a movie starring Sigourney Weaver and Ben Kingsley.

The protesters in Poland objected to the presence on the stage of porn stars and sexually explicit scenes.

The government's new culture minister, Piotr Glinski, called for the show to be canceled before its premiere on

Saturday, noting the theater is sponsored by the state budget.

Glinski's opponents say his attempt to stop the performance amounts to a violation of freedom of speech.

Theater director Krzysztof Mieszkowski said he plans to file an official motion in parliament calling on Glinski to be removed from his post. It is unlikely to succeed since the ruling Law and Justice party has a majority in the parliament.

Mieszkowski also said that protesters threw eggs and tomatoes at his mother's home and called on the play's critics to leave her alone.

Last 'Hunger Games' opens to franchise low of \$101M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Mockingjay—Part 2,” the final “Hunger Games” film, soared to a \$101 million opening in its first weekend in theaters, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

For most films, the figure would be a coup, but the latest chapter of “The Hunger Games” collected the lowest opening take among the four films in the series.

The series starring Jennifer Lawrence kicked off with a bang in March 2012 with a massive \$152.5 million weekend—one of the highest openings of all time.

“Catching Fire,” the second film in the franchise, one-upped that with a \$158.1 million debut in November 2013.

Lionsgate split the final book in Suzanne Collins’ trilogy into two films, following the precedent of “Twilight” and “Harry Potter.”

“Mockingjay—Part 1” opened on this weekend last year to \$121.9 million, considered at the time to be a necessary and expected dip while fans awaited the final installment, which, if it had mimicked “Twilight” or “Harry Potter,” would have snared at least the second-highest (if not highest)

opening in the series.

The franchise low for the final “Hunger Games” film, which cost a reported \$160 million to make, was a bit of a surprise. Lionsgate, however, was not disappointed.

“It’s a great accomplishment. The overall franchise has grossed over \$2 billion worldwide and counting,” said David Spitz, co-president of theatrical distribution for Lionsgate. “It’s a pretty phenomenal result.”

Expectations run high when films become so popular and successful in such a short a time, said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for Rentrak.

“If we live in a world where a \$100 million opening is a disappointment, that’s pretty crazy,” he said

Only 34 movies in history have opened at over \$100 million, including all four in “The Hunger Games” series.

Dergarabedian attributes the showing to a down marketplace. Just two weekends ago, “Spectre,” which fell to second place this week with \$14.6 million, failed to live up to the domestic opening of “Skyfall,” the previous James Bond film.

“Thanksgiving represents a good opportunity for a really



strong second weekend,” Dergarabedian said of “Mockingjay—Part 2.”

With \$12.8 million, “The Peanuts Movie” finished behind “Spectre” and ahead of the Seth Rogen holiday comedy “The Night Before,” which earned an expected \$10.1 million. The R-rated film cost about \$25 million to produce.

“This is a movie that people love. Opening early seemed

like a really good prelude to the Thanksgiving weekend where it will expand beautifully,” said Rory Bruer, Sony’s president of worldwide distribution. “It’s a good start for us.”

The Julia Roberts thriller “The Secret in Their Eyes,” a remake of the Oscar-winning Argentinian film, debuted wide this weekend to \$6.6 million from 2,392 locations—slightly under expectations.

With the weekend box office down 11 percent from last year, it remains to be seen whether 2015 will indeed become a record-breaking \$11 billion year as many predicted at the outset. Box office is up 4.2 percent from last year, but 2013 is the year to beat—and this year is tracking less than 1 percent ahead of that.

“We’re in the home stretch,” Dergarabedian said. “But re-

This photo provided by Lionsgate shows, Liam Hemsworth, left, as Gale Hawthorne, Sam Claflin, back left, as Finnick Odair, Evan Ross, back right, as Messalia, and Jennifer Lawrence, right, as Katniss Everdeen, in the film, “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2.”

member, we have a little secret weapon in ‘Star Wars.’”

1. **"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 2,"** \$101 million (\$146 million international).
2. **"Spectre,"** \$14.6 million (\$65.7 million international).
3. **"The Peanuts Movie,"** \$12.8 million (\$1.3 million international).
4. **"The Night Before,"** \$10.1 million.
5. **"The Secret in Their Eyes,"** \$6.6 million (\$1.5 million international).
6. **"Love the Coopers,"** \$3.9 million.
7. **"The Martian,"** \$3.7 million (\$1.9 million international).
8. **"Spotlight,"** \$3.6 million.
9. **"The 33,"** \$2.2 million.
10. **"Bridge of Spies,"** \$1.9 million (\$556,000 international).

Church of England fighting ban of 'Lord's Prayer' film spot

LONDON (AP)—The Church of England is threatening legal action over the rejection of a one-minute film featuring the Lord’s Prayer that it wanted to run before showings of the new Star Wars film that opens shortly before Christmas.

Church officials say the decision not to air the short film amounts to religious discrimination against the Church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said Sunday it is “extraordinary” that cin-

emas won’t show the film in the week before Christmas.

The advertisement shows the Lord’s Prayer being recited by members of the public.

It was cleared by British film classification and advertising agencies but turned down by Digital Cinema Media, which handles advertisements for major film chains in Britain.

Church officials said they were told the advertisement could potentially cause offense.

Int'l Emmys to honor 'Downton Abbey' creator Julian Fellowes

NEW YORK (AP)—The timing couldn’t be better for the International Emmys to honor “Downton Abbey” writer and creator Julian Fellowes as the acclaimed British period drama wraps up its sixth and last season with a Christmas Day finale on Britain’s ITV.

Elizabeth McGovern, who stars as Cora Crawley, Countess of Grantham, and the show’s executive producer Gareth Neame will present the honorary International Emmy Founders Award to

Fellowes Monday night at the Hilton New York.

“Downton Abbey” was never nominated for an International Emmy honoring excellence in TV productions outside the U.S. because its producers opted to compete in the Primetime Emmys, winning 12 awards and earning the most nominations ever for an international TV series. The show’s final season begins airing on PBS in the U.S.



Fellowes

on Jan. 3.

“Downton Abbey,” portraying the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants amid the backdrop of such historical events as the sinking of the Titanic and World

War I, has become one of the most popular TV shows in the world, airing in at least 150 countries.

“We give the Founders Award to somebody whose work crosses cultural bound-

aries to touch our common humanity,” said Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. “It’s amazing with ‘Downton’—almost any place you go in the world people watch it, like it and refer to the characters.”

“In the guise of early 20th century aristocrats and the people who work for them, Julian has recreated everybody so people can see themselves and their situations and their life in these characters.”

Jailed addict needs release from his low self-esteem

DEAR ABBY: I'm 23 years old and currently in the county jail. I'm gay and also an addict, having battled a heroin addiction for the past five years.

I managed to stay clean for almost two years. During that time I enrolled in college, got engaged, regained the respect of my family and started to have a normal life. Things were going very well for me, and then I relapsed. I threw everything away.

Abby, I need to know why, when things go well for me, I feel as if I don't deserve to be happy so I self-destruct. I have absolutely no self-confidence. I'm very unhappy. Even when I seem to get what I want, it turns out to be not exactly what I wanted in the end. How can I fix this? I really do want to be happy; I just don't know how.

UNHAPPY MAN IN INDIANA, PA.

DEAR UNHAPPY: Your arrest may have been a blessing in disguise. It has given you time to think clearly about why you are in this situation. Because you now recognize what your issues are, you have already started on a path to healing.

You say you dislike yourself and your self-esteem is very low. This may be the reason you sabotage yourself when things start going well for you. After your release, a licensed psychotherapist can help you find the answers you're looking for. Your nearest LGBT community center would be a good place to start.

Because you slipped up once doesn't mean you will do it again, so stop beating yourself up and try to think positive. I wish you luck and a successful future.

DEAR ABBY: I met "Gil" a year ago. He was one of the nicest men I'd ever met. At the time, I didn't realize he was a mama's boy. But after we started to talk, I noticed he would repeat everything to his mother. We discussed it and it stopped, but that's when his mom started treating me differently. I'm pretty sure he told her what I had said.

Gil loves my cooking and has told me I cook like she does. I don't know if that's so good. I really like him, but I don't know if I can handle his being such a mama's boy. If he could cut the apron strings, we could have a great relationship. He treats me like a queen. He respects me, never says an unkind word and compliments me often. But if I plan a meal for him and then his mom decides she wants him at her house, he cancels on me because he doesn't want to hurt her feelings.

Gil is 51 and hasn't been in a serious relationship in several years. I'm falling in love with him and don't want to lose him. What do I do, and how do I handle this?

COMING IN SECOND IN MISSOURI

DEAR COMING IN SECOND: Your mistake is trying to

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



compete with Gil's mother because you can't win. The woman who snags Gil will have to accept that they are a package deal. Not many women these days are willing to accept that, which may be why Gil hasn't had a serious relationship in years.

However, if you are the exception, the way to handle this would be to cultivate (and ingratiate yourself with) his mother. Find out what her favorite flowers are and send them with a sweet note, invite her to join you and Gil for dinner and movies — and if she offers suggestions about your cooking, accept them gracefully. I wish you luck.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

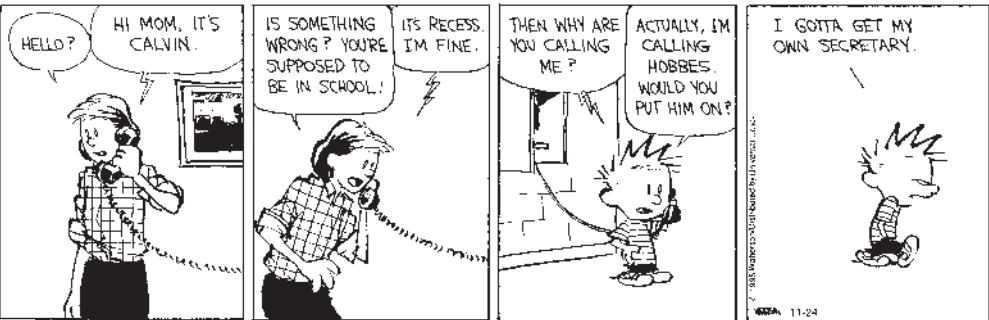
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

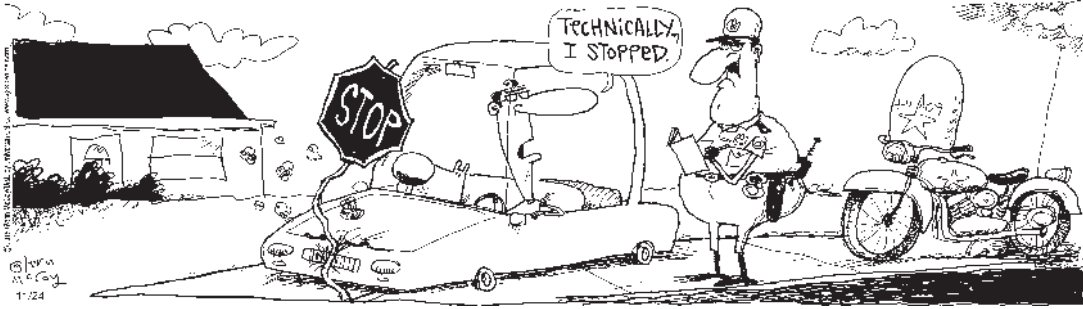
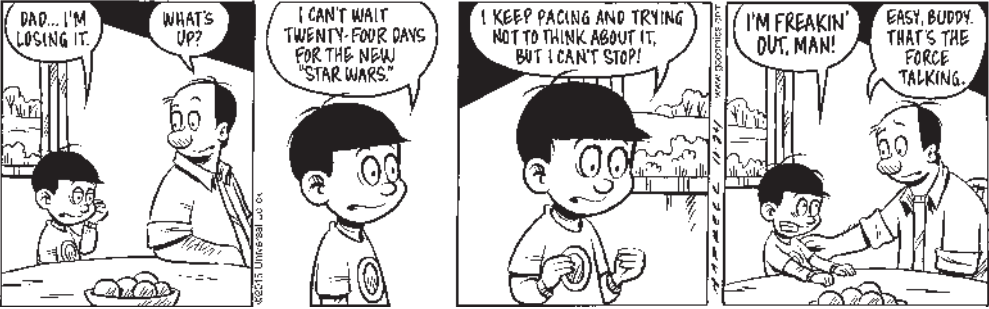


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Hog-wash!"

5 Thurman in "Kill Bill"

8 Big bash

12 As to

13 Fragrant tree

14 Six-sided state

15 "Ben-Hur" transports

17 "— Lisa"

18 New bride's address?

19 Some war zone

21 Speed-skater Bonnie

24 Dagger

25 Dutch astronomer Jan —

26 Oscar-winner Theron

30 Biol., e.g.

31 Suppress

32 Russian jet

33 French cathedral town

35 Jets or Sharks

36 Sword handle

DOWN

37 "That's it!"

38 Goldberg of "The View"

41 — Mahal

42 Cradled

43 Game with hand signals

48 "Understood!"

49 GI support gp.

50 Lad of La Mancha

51 Abrupt turns

52 Dash widths

53 Freudian topics

1 Pen name

2 New England sch.

3 Gun-carrier's org.

4 Miss Piggy's ex-guy

5 Sci-fi crafts

6 With (Ger.)

7 Army-Navy stores?

8 Sports-caster Greg

9 Stick — in the water

10 Country

11 Solvers' cries

16 Sale rack abbr.

20 Blackbird

21 Pear pick

22 Scottish lake

23 "Carmen" solo

24 Cookie baker's need

26 Fancy squiggle

27 Single-named super-model

28 Chutney's quality

29 Waffle maker

31 Little swab

34 Where Colossus stood

35 1997 Demi Moore film

37 "Cheers" set

38 Brainiac

39 "— Rebel" (1962 hit)

40 Designer Cassini

41 New Mexico resort

44 QVC rival

45 Do ground-breaking work?

46 Rock's Brian

47 Yachter's "Help!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	W	L	N	A	C	H	O	C	R	T
R	I	O	E	L	I	O	N	A	A	H
S	I	L	K	P	U	R	S	E	L	I
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G	A	L	S	R	I	T	S	C	O	T
A	N	V	I	L	B	A	A	A	N	O
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Yesterday's answer 11-24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Hyland, 25; Katherine Heigl, 37; Colin Hanks, 38; Pete Best, 74.

Happy Birthday: It's time to make personal changes. Explore different ways to use your skills and to improve your personal appearance to remain on the cutting edge. Enthusiasm, style and energy are important, so be prepared to dazzle and entice those you encounter to take part in your plans. Think big, but keep things simple. Your numbers are 1, 13, 20, 29, 36, 43, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sign contracts, close deals, and invest in yourself. Do what you can to help bring about positive change. Opportunities will unfold as you put an end to any adversity in your life. Focus on doing what's best for you. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Express your feelings and make sure everyone you are dealing with is on the same page. You don't want to face setbacks because someone decides to head in a different direction than you. Be firm but kind and you will reach your goal. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Honest and simple actions will bring you the best results. Positions that used to interest you will not be as exciting as they seemed. Check credentials and disclose any missing information before you forge ahead. Romance is highlighted. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Restrictions will be felt if you allow someone to meddle in your affairs. Don't miss an event because the person you wanted to go with

backs out. Make your own arrangements and do what suits you best. New friendships will develop. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have a way with words that will draw attention and attract interest in what you are doing. A positive lifestyle change will raise your standard of living and promote a healthy relationship with someone you love. Make your move. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect to face problems at home that will make your life difficult. Do your research and make a point to check out options that may take you in an entirely new direction. Don't be afraid to be different. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll learn more if you ask questions. Being a little more adventurous will bring about positive changes and help free you from some of the demands and responsibilities you've been living with. It's time for a change. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pursue what interests you the most. Being different or choosing a unique lifestyle will bring you greater satisfaction. Step up and do what suits you and you won't be sorry or miss what you leave behind. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick to what you know and avoid any misrepresentations along the way. Someone will be quick to point out the ways in which your plans aren't realistic. Leave room for a romantic adventure late in the day in order to ease your stress. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't feel obligated to help others. Look out for your own interests and stabilize your life first. It's important to know where you stand and what you have left over before contributing to other people's ventures. Protect your home and your assets. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check out online job opportunities and consider the changes you can make to raise your income. Romance is on the rise, and spending quality time with someone special will help you come to terms with any differences you have. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful when sharing information. Someone will be eager to steal your ideas and take the credit. Be honest about your intentions when dealing with people who are causing stress. An opportunity to begin again will tempt you. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are eager and adventurous. You are confident, proud and entrepreneurial.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		3		8	4	6	1			
2	6							7		
4									5	
9			4		2					
7										3
			1		9				2	
8									7	
	5							3	6	
4	9	3	5		2					

Difficulty Level ★★

11/24

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	5	1	9	6	2	4	8		
2	6	1	4	8	7	5	3	9		
4	9	8	3	5	2	1	7	6		
9	4	3	6	1	8	7	5	2		
8	2	7	5	3	9	6	1	4		
5	1	6	2	7	4	8	9	3		
1	5	2	9	6	3	4	8	7		
7	3	4	8	2	5	9	6	1		
6	8	9	7	4	1	3	2	5		

Difficulty Level ★

11/24

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD**.

THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Solution: 6 letters

A D L R A N I M E S S P O H S
E R A T U N N E L P O E P T T
P S C N O N E E R G I I E E R
O N R H C N V I A B H N C K U
R O O L I E N R U S I H E E O
U I M I L T D R N B N B X N C
E T W F S E E A A I R P N S L
R U E T N A M C Q I L E E I O
U L L S U S E U T O E C N A
T O L X T R E I R U U D N G K
P V O F A S S E Q O R M I T R
L E A M Y H E S T Y L E R O O
U R I A F A S H I O N T P N O
C C L S R I A H C T S A C N M
S P A I N T I N G S A L L I V

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Newton throws 5 TDs, unbeaten Panthers top Redskins, 44-16



CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Cam Newton threw a career-high five touch-

downs passes, and the Carolina Panthers improved to 10-0 with a 44-16 victory over the Washington Redskins on Sunday.

Newton completed 21 of 34 passes for 246 yards and threw TD passes to five different receivers as Carolina stretched its regular-season win streak to 14 games, including eight straight at home.

The Panthers are the 16th team in the Super Bowl era to start 10-0. Of the previous 15, all made the playoffs and nine have advanced to the Super Bowl, with six winning it all.

The Panthers scored 27 points off five Washington turnovers, three of those by quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Newton became the first Carolina quarterback to throw four TD passes in the first half as the Panthers jumped to a 31-14 lead. Jonathan Stewart ran for 102 yards on 21 carries and caught a 12-yard touchdown pass. Mike Tolbert, Greg Olsen, Ted Ginn Jr. and Devin Funchess also caught TD passes.

Andre Roberts had a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown for the Redskins (4-6), who've lost nine straight on the road.

Cardinals 34, Bengals 31

In Glendale, Ariz., Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 32-yard field goal with 2 seconds remaining and Arizona escaped with a wild victory over Cincinnati.

The field goal was considerably closer than it would have been because Cincinnati's Domata Peko was called for unsportsmanlike conduct for calling out the offensive signals as the Cardinals (8-2) were about to spike the ball to set up the kick.

Carson Palmer overcame two early interceptions to throw four touchdown passes and, with 57 seconds left, completed three quick passes to move the team into field goal range after the Bengals rallied to tie it at 31.

Andy Dalton threw two touchdown passes for the Bengals (8-2), both to Tyler Eifert. The second cut, a 10-yarder, cut it to 31-28 with 3:44 to play.

Buccaneers 45, Eagles 17

In Philadelphia, Jameis Winston and Doug Martin were an unstoppable combination.

Winston tied a rookie record with five touchdown passes, Martin ran for 235 yards for the Buccaneers. Winston completed 19 of 29 passes for 246 yards and had four of his TD passes in the first half to four different receivers. He tied Matthew Stafford's rookie mark in the third quarter on an 8-yard toss to Cameron Brate, the fifth receiver to catch a TD.

Martin had 177 yards in the first half, including runs of 84



AP
Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton (1) celebrates on the sidelines in the second half of an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015.

and 58 yards. He finished 2 yards short of tying Barry Sanders' record for most without a TD. Sanders had 237 for the Lions against Tampa in 1994.

Tampa set a franchise record with 283 yards rushing and 521 total yards and were second most in franchise history in the regular season.

The Buccaneers (5-5) have won two straight games for the first time in two years. The Eagles (4-6) have lost two in a row, but are only one game behind the New York Giants (5-5) in the mediocre NFC East.

Mark Sanchez threw a pair of TD passes in his first start replacing injured Sam Bradford, but Chip Kelly's offense couldn't keep up with Winston and the Buccaneers.

Cowboys 24, Dolphins 14

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Tony Romo pulled off his latest comeback victory, returning from a collarbone injury to throw for two scores as the Cowboys won for the first time since he was hurt in Week 2.

The Cowboys (3-7) snapped a seven-game losing streak, their longest in a single season since 1989. The Dolphins (4-6) increased the likelihood they'll miss the playoffs for the seventh year in a row.

Romo went 18 for 28 for 227 yards, and overcame two interceptions by throwing touchdown passes of 31 yards to Terrence Williams and 16 yards to Dez Bryant.

Dallas linebacker Rolando McClain scored the game's first points and his first career touchdown on a 12-yard interception return. Miami had the ball for only 21 minutes.

Broncos 17, Bears 15

In Chicago, Brock Osweiler threw for two touchdowns, and the Broncos stopped Jeremy

Langford on a 2-point conversion run in the final minute.

Langford scored on a 2-yard run with 24 seconds left to cap a 65-yard drive. But he ran into a crowd on a conversion attempt, and the Broncos (8-2) escaped.

Osweiler completed 20 of 27 passes for 250 yards with five-time MVP Manning staying back in Denver because of injuries to his foot, ribs and shoulder. Ronnie Hillman ran for 102 yards, and the AFC West-leading Broncos (8-2) got back to winning—against former coach John Fox, too—after dropping two in a row.

Osweiler threw a 48-yard touchdown to Demaryius Thomas on Denver's first possession of the game and a 10-yarder to Cody Latimer early in the fourth quarter to make it 17-9. The Bears (4-6) then drove to the Denver 4, only to have Jay Cutler's fourth-down pass to Langford in a crowd in the end zone get broken up.

Ravens 16, Rams 13

In Baltimore, Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco tore ligaments in his left knee during the closing seconds of a 16-13 victory over the Rams. The Ravens also lost running back Justin Forsett, who broke both bones in his right forearm.

Justin Tucker kicked a 47-yard field goal as time expired to end a mistake-filled game in which the Ravens rallied from a 10-point deficit.

One final miscue decided the issue: Rams quarterback Case Keenum fumbled when hit by Courtney Upshaw, and teammate Lawrence Guy recovered at the St. Louis 41 with 54 seconds to go.

Flacco moved the Ravens (3-7) to the 29—injuring his knee along the way—before Tucker delivered the winning kick.

St. Louis (4-6) lost four fumbles and missed an extra point.

In his first start of the season, Keenum went 12 for 26 for 136 yards and fumbled three times, losing two.

Baltimore won despite committing two turnovers and being penalized 10 times for 137 yards. The Ravens have lost seven games by a total of 32 points, but this close one went their way.

Packers 30, Vikings 13

In Minneapolis, Aaron Rodgers threw for 212 yards and a pair of touchdowns, Datone Jones had two of Green Bay's six sacks and the Packers stopped a three-game losing streak to pull even in the NFC North race.

James Jones had six catches for 109 yards and a score, Eddie Lacy rushed for a season-high 100 yards on 22 carries, and the Packers (7-3) beat the rival Vikings for the 10th time in the last 11 meetings with Rodgers at quarterback. He has thrown for 28 touchdown passes with just three interceptions in those games.

The Vikings (7-3) had their five-game winning streak shoved back in their face by a proud Packers team that clearly wasn't ready to concede a division it has won four straight times. The rematch is on Jan. 3 in Green Bay to close the schedule.

Right after the ugliest of those three defeats, an 18-16 decision at home against Detroit, Rodgers and the Packers roared back with one of his vintage performances against the Vikings to the delight of the enemy fans chanting, "Go, Pack, Go!" throughout the evening.

Seahawks 29, 49ers 13

In Seattle, rookie Thomas Rawls rushed for 209 yards and had two total touchdowns, while Tyler Lockett caught a pair of TD passes from Russell Wilson, and the Seahawks got back to .500.

Starting in place of Mar-

shawn Lynch, out with an abdominal injury, Rawls posted his third 100-yard rushing game of his rookie season and the second time topping 160 yards. Rawls scored on a 2-yard run in the first quarter and added a 31-yard catch-and-run touchdown from Wilson in the fourth quarter to give Seattle (5-5) a 16-point lead. Rawls finished with 255 total yards.

Lockett caught a 24-yard TD pass in the first quarter and carried a San Francisco defender into the end zone on an 11-yard grab later in the first half.

Blaine Gabbert threw for 264 yards and one touchdown, but San Francisco (3-7) couldn't overcome the early 20-0 deficit.

Colts 24, Falcons 21

In Atlanta, relying on a pair of 40-somethings, the Colts rallied from a pair of two-touchdown deficits to beat the slumping Falcons.

Adam Vinatieri, the oldest player in the league at 42, added another winning kick to his sterling resume, booting a 43-yarder with 52 seconds remaining. The Colts won with 40-year-old Matt Hasselbeck throwing a pair of touchdown passes filling in for injured Andrew Luck.

D'Qwell Jackson tied the game with just over 10 minutes remaining on a 6-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Then, it was Vinatieri who won it for the Colts (5-5), as he's done so many times in his brilliant career. In his 300th game, he came through with his 26th winning kick in either the final minute of regulation or overtime.

The Falcons (6-4) lost for the fourth time in five games after a 5-0 start. This one was on the offense, which totally bogged down in the second half.

Texans 24, Jets 17

In Houston, T.J. Yates tossed two

TDs to DeAndre Hopkins, who had 118 yards receiving, and Alfred Blue caught a scoring pass from receiver Cecil Shorts.

The Texans (5-5) have won three games in a row for the first time since 2012. And they did it with Yates, who threw for 229 yards in his first start since Jan. 15, 2012 in the playoffs for Houston as a rookie.

Yates, signed on Oct. 28 after Ryan Mallett was released, started in place of Brian Hoyer, out with a concussion.

The game was tied in the third quarter when the TD pass by Shorts made it 17-10. Yates and Hopkins linked up for a 20-yard score on the next possession.

Ryan Fitzpatrick, who played after having surgery on his non-throwing thumb on Nov. 13, got New York (5-5) within 24-17 with a touchdown run with 4 1/2 minutes left, but was intercepted on the next two drives. The Jets have lost four of five.

Chiefs 33, Chargers 3

In San Diego, Justin Houston intercepted Philip Rivers' pass and returned it 17 yards for a touchdown and 346-pound defensive tackle Dontari Poe leaped over the pile for a 1-yard TD.

Alex Smith won again at Qualcomm Stadium as the Chiefs (5-5) won their fourth straight game following a five-game losing streak.

The Chargers (2-8) lost their sixth straight.

Rivers had his worst game of the season, throwing for just 178 yards. Rivers attempted a pass to Danny Woodhead from the Chargers 23 and Houston intercepted it and ran it in for a 19-3 lead with 3:27 left in the third quarter.

Houston sacked Rivers four times in the 2014 season finale in which the Chargers were eliminated from the playoff race.

Smith, who led Helix High to consecutive city championships at Qualcomm Stadium, was 20 of 25 for 253 yards.

Lions 18, Raiders 13

In Detroit, Matthew Stafford ran for a go-ahead 5-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter and the Lions (3-7) won consecutive games for the first time this year. The Raiders (4-6) have a season-high three-game losing streak.

Matt Prater made three field goals on as many attempts in the first half to give Detroit a 9-0 lead.

The Raiders went ahead after their second drive of the third quarter. Latavius Murray's 1-yard touchdown run capped the opening possession of the second half and Sebastian Janikowski made a go-ahead, 48 yard field goal on Oakland's next possession.

After Detroit was held to 27 yards of offense in the third quarter, Stafford capped an 80-yard drive with a designed draw to put the Lions up 16-13 with 11:04 to play.

Thompson leads Warriors to 15-0 start, over Nuggets, 118-105



DENVER (AP)—Who's counting? The Golden State Warriors certainly are. The wins are piling up, and they're moving closer to NBA history.

But they're focused not so much on a number as winning in general.

Klay Thompson scored 21 points and the Warriors tied the best start in league history, beating the Denver Nuggets 118-105 on Sunday night to move to 15-0.

Golden State matches the start of the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and the '93-94 Houston Rockets. The Warriors can break the record Tuesday night at home against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's kind of a quiet confidence that we don't feel like we're going to lose anytime soon," Stephen Curry said. "The way we're playing ... we can get even better."

That's a scary thought for a Warriors team that just surpassed the '57-58 Boston Celtics for the best start by a defending champion.

"It's a huge accomplishment," Curry said of their blistering start. "Obviously, coming off a championship and taking care of business 15 straight times to start the season—couldn't ask for a better start."

As good as it gets right there—until Tuesday anyway.

"It would be a cool milestone," Thompson said. "Shows how special this team can be."

The Nuggets saw just how special the Warriors can be first hand. They hit 15 of 29 3-pointers. They dished out 35



assists. They played suffocating defense. They even turned the ball over—21 times, to interim coach Luke Walton's chagrin—but it didn't seem to hurt them.

"They're the best team in the world. It's a difficult task," said Nikola Jokic, who had 11 points and 11 rebounds. "In some parts of the game we could defend them and in other parts no. I mean they just need 3, 4 minutes and they're up by 15 so we need to play defense all the time."

Thompson hit a 3-pointer with 2:08 remaining in the second quarter and Golden State never trailed again. The re-

serves built up a sizeable lead and allowed Curry to rest the entire fourth quarter. He had 19 points, the first time this season he didn't reach 20.

Darrell Arthur had 21 points for the Nuggets, who've lost three straight. Kenneth Faried was sidelined by a sprained left ankle.

Harrison Barnes scored seven of his 17 points in the third quarter to allow the Warriors to gain some separation. This was the way things went for the Warriors in the third: Festus Ezeli missed a wide-open dunk and it wound up in the hands of Curry, who drained a 3-pointer.

When the Warriors played in Denver last March, they rested Curry & Co. That didn't sit well with fans who were expecting to see the sharp-shooting guard.

Resting wasn't an option this time. Not so close to an NBA record.

"Whether or not we get it, it really doesn't affect our ultimate goal of trying to win a championship," said Walton, who picked up a technical in the third quarter. "It would be something nice to get along the way."

Thunder 117, Mavericks 114

In Oklahoma City, Russell

Westbrook had 31 points and 11 assists, hitting two key baskets in the final 63 seconds, and Oklahoma City rallied from a double-digit third-quarter deficit to snap Dallas' six-game winning streak.

Serge Ibaka had 16 points, nine rebounds and a key late blocked shot for Oklahoma City, which was without star forward Kevin Durant (injured hamstring) for the sixth straight game.

Westbrook broke a 113-113 tie with a jumper with 1:03 left. Zaza Pachulia made 1 of 2 from the free-throw line to pull the Mavericks within a point before Westbrook's 18-foot jumper with 24 seconds left capped the scoring.

Deron Williams led Dallas with 20 points, but missed an 18-footer and had his layup attempt blocked by Ibaka on consecutive possessions, and Wesley Matthews' last-second off-balance heave from 3-point range came nowhere close to the basket.

Pelicans 122, Suns 116

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis capped a 32-point, 19-rebound performance with a tiebreaking 3 in the final minute to lead New Orleans past Phoenix.

Davis, whose rebound total set a season high, also blocked four shots and had two steals. His last block came with 22 seconds left, when he tapped Mirza Teletovic's 3-point attempt from the right corner off-line. The ball fell to Pelicans guard Ish Smith, and New Orleans held on from there.

Ryan Anderson, who scored 30 in each of his previous two games, had 29 points for New Orleans. Eric Gordon added 20 points, while Smith had 17 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Eric Bledsoe scored 29 points for Phoenix, which lost despite hitting 17 3-pointers. Brandon Knight had 19 points, but missed 13 of 18 shots.

Denver Nuggets forward Danilo Gallinari, center, of Italy, drives the lane for a shot as Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green, right, defends and Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, of Serbia, looks on in the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, in Denver.

Nets 111, Celtics 101

In New York, Brook Lopez had 23 points and 10 rebounds, Jarrett Jack scored 13 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Brooklyn earned a split of the teams' home-and-home series.

Two nights after the Celtics won by 25 in Boston, the Nets dominated the second quarter that was pivotal in both games and held on after blowing most of a 22-point lead, their largest of the season.

Joe Johnson added 17 points for the Nets, who have won two in a row at home, where they have barely played this season.

Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley each scored 27 points for the Celtics.

Raptors 91, Clippers 80

In Los Angeles, DeMar DeRozan had 21 points, DeMarre Carroll scored each of his 21 points in the first half, and Toronto held Blake Griffin and Chris Paul scoreless through the first 20-plus minutes of a win over the Clippers.

Luis Scola added 20 points and Kyle Lowry had 13 points and 10 assists for Toronto, which closed out a 2-3 road trip. The Raptors (9-6) shot just 37 percent from the field, but they outrebounded the Clippers 46-42 and forced 19 turnovers.

J.J. Redick scored 17 points for Los Angeles (6-7), which has lost three straight and seven of nine after starting the season 4-0. The only other time they were under .500 during Doc Rivers' two-plus seasons as coach was after his first game on the job, which they lost to the Lakers before winning their next three.

Trail Blazers 107, Lakers 93

In Los Angeles, Damian Lillard had 30 points and a career-high 13 assists, and C.J. McCollum added 19 points in Portland's sixth consecutive victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Mason Plumlee added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won two straight after a seven-game skid. Portland has won a franchise-record five straight road games against the Lakers after maintaining a steady lead throughout the second half.

Kobe Bryant scored 18 points on 6-for-22 shooting, missing all five of his 3-point attempts in the Lakers' third straight loss. Los Angeles' 2-11 start is one game behind their pace from last season, the worst year in franchise history.

Jordan Clarkson led the Lakers with 19 points, and Lou Williams added 14.

McIlroy wins Race to Dubai with UAE title

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Rory McIlroy survived a late scare and finished his frustrating season on a high, winning both the DP World Tour Championship and the Race to Dubai crown on Sunday.

McIlroy got the better of overnight leader Andy Sullivan over the back nine to clinch the European Tour's season-ending tournament.

The third-ranked Northern Irishman shot 6-under 66 with eight birdies to finish on 21-under 267, one stroke ahead of Sullivan (68).

England's Danny Willett, who started the tournament 1,613 points behind McIlroy in the Race to Dubai and needed to beat him to become the European No. 1 for the first time in his career, finished tied for fourth on 13-under 275 after shooting 70.

South Africa's Branden Grace shot 5-under 67 in the final round to finish third on 273.

McIlroy had an anxious moment late in the day when his tee shot on the par-3 17th found the water and threatened to



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland tees off on the 16th hole during the final round of DP World Tour Championship golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015

nullify his advantage at that stage.

But the 26-year-old McIlroy made a brilliant 40-foot putt to limit the damage to a bogey, which gave him a one-shot lead going to the 18th where he and Sullivan made par.

"In hindsight, I probably should have gone with a differ-



ent club and a different shot," McIlroy said of his problems at the 17th. "It's definitely probably the longest putt I've ever made for a bogey. I don't think there's been one that's come at a better time. So, yeah, definitely the best bogey of my career."

McIlroy also won the Race to Dubai title as the European

Tour's No. 1 player for the year, the third time he has secured the honor after winning in 2012 and 2014.

"To be European No. 1 for the third time in four years, that was a goal of mine at the start of the year. It was a goal of mine in the middle of the year and it was definitely a goal coming into these last few weeks," he said.

McIlroy's closest rival for the Race to Dubai was Willett, who made early birdies to climb to third place on the leaderboard, but both McIlroy and Sullivan had enough birdies of their own to stay comfortably clear. Willett needed to finish ahead of McIlroy in the tournament.

Sullivan had two birdies in the first two holes, and four in the first six. McIlroy bogeyed the fourth and trailed Sullivan by three shots at one stage, despite birdies on Nos. 5, 6 and 7.

But the birdies stopped for Sullivan as he started spraying his tee shots, and McIlroy edged ahead with two crucial birdies on the 14th and 15th holes.

NL's Harper youngest unanimous MVP; Donaldson earns AL honor

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryce Harper began this season with one personal goal—and it had nothing to do with homers, RBIs or awards.

“All I wanted to do was stay healthy and stay on the field every day,” he said.

Harper did that, and a lot more. The Washington slugger put behind his injury-plagued past and put up huge numbers, becoming the youngest unanimous MVP winner in baseball history when he captured the NL honor Thursday.

Toronto third baseman Josh Donaldson took the AL MVP after helping to boost the Blue Jays back into the postseason for the first time since 1993.

“We tore down a lot of thresholds this organization has had,” he said.

Harper turned 23 on Oct. 16, after his Nationals had already missed the postseason. The outfielder got all 30 first-place votes from members of the

Baseball Writers’ Association of America, and was the first MVP in either league from a non-playoff team since Albert Pujols with St. Louis in 2008.

“Very excited, very humbled,” Harper said.

Harper seemed destined for stardom ever since Sports Illustrated put him on the cover at 16. He began with a bang, making the All-Star team soon after his big league debut and emerging as the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year.

But his all-out style of play cost him, too. He missed a slew of games in 2013 after a pair of run-ins with walls, then was sidelined for much of 2014 following a headfirst slide that hurt his thumb.

The whole way, expectations kept building for Harper, not that he worried about them.

“I just want to do what I do,” he said on a conference call.

This year, Harper played 153 games, avoided the disabled list and kept climbing



the stat charts.

Harper hit .330 with 42 home runs and 99 RBIs. He led the majors with a .649 slugging percentage and a .460 on-base average.

He went into the final day of the regular season with a chance to win the NL batting title—Miami’s Dee Gordon edged him—and scored a league-leading 118 runs.

Harper was the first player

from a Washington franchise to win an MVP since the BBWAA awards began in 1931—no one on the original or expansion Senators or Nats had done it.

Harper was the fourth-youngest player overall to win an MVP, with Stan Musial, Johnny Bench and Vida Blue also 22 but not quite as old.

Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt finished second in the voting and Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto was third. Yoenis Cespedes, acquired by

^{AP}
In this Saturday, June 13, 2015 file photo, Washington Nationals’ Bryce Harper hits an RBI single during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers in Milwaukee.

the Mets from Detroit at the July 31 trade deadline, came in 13th.

Harper did much better than the banged-up Nationals, who started the season as World Series favorites and finished 83-79.

“Really not sure,” he said. “Sometimes, the ball doesn’t roll your way.”

The three-time All-Star also continued to draw fans in the Washington area and beyond. His constantly changing hairstyles are always getting attention, and the selfie he took in the outfield before a game at Nationals Park this season boosted his popularity even more.

Harper also seemed more at ease with his teammates and vice versa, notwithstanding his late-season scrap with closer Jonathan Papelbon.

Harper’s hitting, though, is

what made him so special.

“Every team that we played circled his name and said, ‘This guy’s not going to beat us.’ And with that said, he beat a lot of teams,” Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said Wednesday. “As we said at this time last year, I thought that ‘Harp’ was just scratching the surface of what he can be.”

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	9	6	.600	—
New York	8	6	.571	½
Boston	7	6	.538	1
Brooklyn	3	11	.214	5½
Philadelphia	0	14	.000	8½

Southeast Division

Miami	8	4	.667	—
Atlanta	9	6	.600	½
Washington	6	4	.600	1
Charlotte	7	6	.538	1½
Orlando	6	7	.462	2½

Central Division

Cleveland	10	3	.769	—
Chicago	8	4	.667	1½
Indiana	8	5	.615	2
Detroit	7	6	.538	3
Milwaukee	5	8	.385	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	10	3	.769	—
Dallas	9	5	.643	1½
Memphis	7	7	.500	3½
Houston	5	9	.357	5½
New Orleans	3	11	.214	7½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	8	6	.571	—
Utah	6	6	.500	1
Denver	6	8	.429	2
Portland	6	9	.400	2½
Minnesota	5	8	.385	2½

Pacific Division

Golden State	15	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	7	6	.538	7
L.A. Clippers	6	7	.462	8
Sacramento	5	9	.357	9½
L.A. Lakers	2	11	.154	12

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	0	0	1.000	303	169
Buffalo	5	4	0	.556	231	207
N.Y. Jets	5	5	0	.500	234	208
Miami	4	6	0	.400	205	249

South						
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	224	248
Houston	5	5	0	.500	208	228
Jacksonville	4	6	0	.400	211	268
Tennessee	2	8	0	.200	182	233

North						
Cincinnati	8	2	0	.800	266	186
Pittsburgh	6	4	0	.600	236	191
Baltimore	3	7	0	.300	226	249
Cleveland	2	8	0	.200	186	277

West						
Denver	8	2	0	.800	222	183
Kansas City	5	5	0	.500	257	198
Oakland	4	6	0	.400	240	259
San Diego	2	8	0	.200	213	282

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
N.Y. Giants	5	5	0	.500	273	253
Washington	4	6	0	.400	221	253
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	229	229
Dallas	3	7	0	.300	190	228

South						
Carolina	10	0	0	1.000	299	191
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	250	214
Tampa Bay	5	5	0	.500	236	254
New Orleans	4	6	0	.400	255	315

North						
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	249	198
Minnesota	7	3	0	.700	211	184
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	214	251
Detroit	3	7	0	.300	185	274

West						
Arizona	8	2	0	.800	336	216
Seattle	5	5	0	.500	228	192
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	179	199
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	139	252

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOM early bird registration deadline Nov. 27

Cyclists looking to participate in the 9th Annual Hell of the Marianas are encouraged to register before Friday, Nov. 27, to take advantage of the early bird registration savings. Registration is \$60 per person, and is available online at hellofthemarianas.com. Paper registra-



tion is available at Gold's Gym.

Registration fees will go up to \$85 per person from Saturday, Nov. 28, until the registration deadline on Wednesday, Dec. 2. The race is schedule for Saturday, Dec. 5 at 6:15am at the Marianas Resort & Spa.

HOM is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority, sponsored by the Northern Marianas Islands Cycling Federation, the Marianas Resort & Spa, KKMP, KZMI, and the Sorenson Media Group and is a PIVOT LLC event production. For additional race information, visit hellofthemarianas.com. (PR)

MARPI

From Page 28

Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members are also using the facility, which was just recently reopened after being closed for more than three months in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

“We will be very sad if we lose the pool even for a couple of years. It was hard during the last three months with the pool closed. Although we can swim in the lagoon, that is tide dependent, red flag dependent, and is a different kind of workout,” Kindel said.

“This island is so lucky to

have this pool. The [Mariana] Resort operates it as a loss but somehow was required to provide through the lease. If you go to the states, most pools are set up for swimming widthwise so only 25 yards or meters and anyone who has swam in our pool will tell you what a drag it is to use a short course pool,” she added.

The long-time CNMI resident also mentioned the CNMI’s hosting of the Pacific Mini Games for the first time. The quadrennial competition will come to the Commonwealth in 2021 and swimming is one of the sports the host country is offering with the

Marpi pool the proposed venue for the races.

“What about the 2021 Pacific Mini Games Saipan is hosting? Swimming events require a sanctioned pool. I don’t know the requirements but other than open water events, I believe there is no other pool on island that could handle the events,” she said.

“Ideally whoever gets the lease, hopefully Mariana Resort, will give us a brand new world class facility, with many more hours of open pool time. And ideally, the old pool will be kept open until the new one is open!”

ADA

From Page 28

“There are girls who had played in the Little League World Series but it would also be nice for them to have their own league,” said Ada.

A total of 18 girls have played in the Little League Baseball World Series since 1984 with youth sensation Mo’ne Davis and Emma March both having pitched for their respective teams in 2014.

Davis, who gained prominence last year after being the first female to pitch a shutout and first African-American girl to play in the Little League World Series, was a member of the Taney Youth Baseball

Association Little League of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She went 2-2 in the World Series.

Pitcher Victoria Roche of Brussels Little League of Belgium broke the gender barrier when she became the first girl to play in the Little League World Series in 1984.

Ada said he is eyeing to team up with the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization since the high school girls youth sports program has softball in their list of events played every year.

“Hopefully we get the chance to tie the Little League program with MISO. I saw a lot of talented young players in the last MISO season. All we need is more volunteers so we could start the girls softball program,”

Ada said.

Ada also supported measures to organize a softball league for adults for continuity of the program since it would also benefit the youth female players. He is the second sports personality after CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Tony Satur, who also made calls of having a softball program for adults.

“Playing softball could earn some of these kids college scholarships in the mainland just like [Saipan Little League products] Josh Jones and Jeremy Rabauliman.”

Satur, who holds a lot of records in softball in the CNMI, wants to become an adviser if ever women’s fast-pitch softball resurfaces.

'Non-sports events additional income for NMSA'

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi said they would be looking into the possibility of allowing non-sports events to be held at the Oleai Sports Complex if it would give the CNMI sports governing body additional revenue to support their daily operations.

Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune* that the plan would depend on what kind of events the organizers have planned to hold in an open area like the sports complex.

"If it would be an additional source of income for NMSA, why not? But it all depends on the proposal that will be submitted by event organizers. We'll take a look at their proposal and study it," said Rogolifoi.

Open-air concerts and outdoor theater plays, musicals, or movies could be held at the Oleai Sports Complex's football field.

"NMSA is a non-profit organization by law but we are also mandated to collect reasonable fees for the use of the facilities. That's why we opened the sports complex to everybody who wants to use for an event, mostly sports tournaments," said Rogolifoi.

However, the sports facilities inside the complex were damaged by several typhoons most especially Soudelor, which almost leveled Saipan on Aug. 2.

"Right now we could not accommodate requests for the use of the facilities. We have been receiving a lot of inquiries but what can we do? A lot of things need to be repaired,"



said Rogolifoi.

"Good thing we're going to get aid from [the Federal Emergency Management Administration] and the money will go through the Governor's Office. The fees that we collect from those groups who use the facilities go to our daily operations and maintenance," he added.

Repairs at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the offices, the track and field stadium, the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field, and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field are expected to start as soon as the Governor's Office releases FEMA's assistance.

The Oleai track is also due

for resurfacing after wear and tear caused bubbles to form and black patches to show in the decade-old facility.

Rogolifoi said that they would impose stricter rules

once the old rubber surface gets replaced next year.

"Right now a lot of people are still using the track, either they jog, run, or just walk around it. But we asked them to be careful

since more bubbles formed after several typhoons. They might trip on this bubbles," he said.

"We will close the track oval once resurfacing begins. Right now we could not prevent them

JON PEREZ

Equipment and the steel fence and railing inside the Oleai track and field facility also need repairs. The Northern Marianas Sports Association will be closing the track oval once they start with the renovation and other improvement.

from using the track that's why we're planning to put up more and bigger signs to warn people. They should always exercise caution when using the track," he added.

He also asked people not to ride their bicycles, scooters, and skateboards on the track. NMSA will no longer allow these things once the new surface is in place.

"I even saw one time somebody walking while pushing a stroller. But once the new track surface is placed we will be strict in implementing the rules," said Rogolifoi.

Football games are also held at the Oleai field and Rogolifoi also reminded players, once the new rubber surface is in place, not to wear their cleats when they step or walk on the track.

"We want to protect the condition of the field in preparation for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and so we could also use it for a longer time."



KB Market, MJD/GPPC rout foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

KB Market and MJD/GPPC romped past their respective opponents in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Saturday night at the San Antonio court.

MJD/GPPC whipped CES Electronics, 91-59, in the masters division game, while KB Market pounded Triple J in the open pairing, 114-84.

Jun Tabora sizzled for 31 points in MJD/GPPC's demolition of CES Electronic and handed his team a 4-0 record and a share of the lead with idle GMJ/IKKI. CES Electronics fell to a 1-6 record and needs to win its remaining game to boost its playoff bid. Only the Top 8 teams out of the nine participating squads will advance to the playoffs and CES is at the No. 8 spot, just slightly ahead of winless Maplas (0-5).

Tabora made his presence felt early in their game against CES, knocking in 10 points in the first period that ended with MGD/GPPC enjoying a double-digit spread, 25-13. MJD/GPPC went on to widen the gap in the last three quarters with Tabora's three other teammates also finishing in double figures en route to their 30-point winning margin. Alex Ocampo had 16 points, while Jun Alipio and Boboy Sampang contributed 15 and 10, respectively.

Bobby Dela Cruz paced CES Electronics with his 12 points, while Sonny Ebu and John

Capuyon chipped in 10 apiece.

Meanwhile, KB Market was on fire against Triple J to end its regular-season bid in the East Group on a winning note.

KB Market won its last three games after going 0-4 and pending results of last night's matches, it occupies the No. 4 spot in the team standings behind top finisher MJD (6-1), Sonics (5-2), Ask Y U B (5-2) and Islander Hoops (4-2). Triple J is at seventh spot with its 1-5 mark, while Maplas (1-4) and 5-Star Construction (0-5) are at No. 6 and No. 8, respectively. All eight squads will march into the playoff round with the Top 4 teams battling the lower-ranked squads in a single-elimination format.

KB Market remained in the race for the Top 4 spot after getting a strong shooting night from Matt Duenas, Preston Basa, and Lerio Pagara, who combined for more than half of the team's total production against Triple J. Duenas led all scorers with his 32 points, while Basa and Pagara tallied 24 apiece. Leo Itaas and Ryan Manglona also had double figures for KB Market, registering 18 and 14, respectively.

KB Market opened a 29-14 lead at the end of the first period, behind the 10 points of Duenas to set up the lopsided win.

Tillman Clark had 21 markers for the skidding Triple J, which dropped its last five games.

Masters

MGD/GPPC 91 – Tabora 31,

Ocampo 16, Alipio 15, Sampang 10, Rosario 8, Parcutilo 6, Deocares 5.

CES Electronics 59 – Dela Cruz 12, S. Ebu 10, Capuyon 10, Tibayan 9, Tobias 7, O. Ebu 5, Tengco 4, Abadilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 48-22, 69-36, 91-59.

Open

KB Market 114 – Duenas 32, Basa 24, Pagara 24, Itaas 18, Manglona 14, Nonato 2.

Triple J 84 – Clark 21, Pangelinan 18, Pestillos 14, Gandeza 12, Geli 12, Jarabe 4, Obnimaga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-13, 58-37, 87-59, 114-84.

FISU gets strict on doping

The International University Sports Federation and the World Anti-Doping Agency teamed up in developing an anti-doping program for university sports.

FISU secretary general and chief executive officer Eric Saintrond, in a letter sent to all member federations including the CNMI, said the program was officially launched in the 28th Summer Universiade in Gwangju, South Korea after successfully testing it last year.

FISU and WADA helped the Gwangju Universiade Organizing Committee with the program in the July 3 to 14 Games.

Saintrond, in the letter, said the anti-doping program is important since it supports FISU's mission and values of a clean sport, fair play, ethics, and education.

"It also illustrates FISU's

specificity as being the unique international organization that brings together the sport movement and the academic world by promoting the 'dual career' principles and benefits," said Saintrond.

Saintrond added that they are encouraging all universities and other learning institutions to also include anti-doping measures and programs in their curriculum.

"The FISU-WADA anti-doping program has entered its implementation phase and awareness has to be raised about it. Therefore, we would like to request your support in promoting it amongst your academic partners."

FISU has more than 100 member nations including the CNMI, which became part of the program in 2009.

Last July, long-distance runner Seiya Eda represented the CNMI in the Gwanju Universiade. (Jon Perez)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KB Market's Leo Itaas goes up for an uncontested shot during their Open division game against Triple J in the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Newton throws
5 TDs, unbeaten
Panthers top
Redskins, 44-16

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Saipan Tribune Sports



'Non-sports
events additional
income for
NMSA'

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28 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

WITH UNCERTAINTY OF KAN PACIFIC LEASE EXTENSION

Concerns raised on future of Marpi pool

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A member of the swimming community has raised concerns about the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool after the Department of Public Lands last week announced a request for proposal for the lease and development of the public land in Marpi.

Mariana Resort & Spa, which is owned by Kan Pacific Saipan, currently holds the lease of the 1.61 million-square-meter land and manages the 50-meter pool where CNMI swimmers practice regularly and local and international tournaments are hosted.

"What happens to the 50-me-

ter pool if Kan Pacific doesn't get to keep the lease? Will new owners be required to keep the pool at its current location with no interruption of usage?" said Suzy Kindel, a member of Saipan Swim Club Masters.

Kan Pacific's lease on the Marpi land will expire on April 30, 2018, while the deadline



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A CNMI swimmer competes in a backstroke race of a local tournament held early this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

GMI Market enters U18 finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

GMI Market had to withstand a gallant stand from the Sonics to eke out a 99-93 overtime win and notch the first finals berth in the U18 division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Sunday night at the San Antonio court.

The Sonics nearly pulled the rug under the highly favored GMI Market before Djay Ong, Ignacio Borja, and Jethro Cruz saved their team from a disastrous loss. Ong sent the game into overtime, while Borja and Cruz scored all of GMI Market's points in the extension.

Ong knocked in a pair of pressure-packed free throws in the last 15 seconds of reg-

See GMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GMI Market's Ignacio Borja pulls up for a short jumper against the Sonics' Jun Fidelino during overtime of their semis game in the U18 division of the San Antonio caging last Sunday at the San Antonio court.

for the submission of RFP is on Feb. 26, 2016. The pool is part of 43,637-square-meter property on the east side of Marpi and the location also houses a baseball and open field.

"If new owners are required to replace the pool, how long would we be without one? Or could the existing pool be kept in operation until the new one is open?" Kindel said, who

early this year also helped facilitate synchronize swimming practice sessions at the only Olympic-sized pool in the CNMI.

She said losing the pool or

not having one for months or years will greatly impact the island's swimming community. Besides Kindel's master group,

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Ada hopes CNMI will have Little League softball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI Little League district administrator James Ada is hoping that the Little League board of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota would someday include a girls fast-pitch softball program on their respective calendars.

Ada, in an exclusive interview by *Saipan Tribune*, said he knows there are a lot of talented young female players in the CNMI and having a separate softball league would further improve their skills.

Several female players saw action in the last Saipan Little League season with the reigning champion Red Sox's Kiana Aldan earning the chance of getting selected to the Saipan All-Stars that reached the Asia Pacific regional tournament held at the Guilin Institute of

Tourism in Guilin, China.

"Hopefully we could implement and start with the girls softball program this coming season. Little League softball is also getting bigger in the world," said Ada, who was confirmed as the CNMI

DA again last month by Little League headquarters in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

"We want all three—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—Little Leagues to also have softball. A lot of girls are now playing softball in Guam and they even reached the Senior League Soft-

ball World Series this year in [Lower Sussex] Delaware."

Ada added that although he supports girls playing with boys in Little League baseball he wants to have a separate program under softball.

See ADA on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Girls softball is hoping to become part of the CNMI Little League program to give young female players their own tournament.